



The Elizabethan.

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IMMINENT QUESTIONS.

THE correspondence which has lately been going on in this paper as to the election of the Athletic Committee, has perhaps not received all the attention which the nature of the subject demands, and has indeed done more to point out the evil effects of the present system, than to provide a remedy for them. It is nevertheless important that such a question should be discussed at the present time, when no personal considerations complicate the issue, rather than when the actual election is close at hand. It must be generally admitted that abuses do exist at present, and that the system now in force tends to foster such abuses; so that a large number of votes are given from other considerations than the fitness of particular candidates for the post. At the same time, it cannot be denied that election by voting is calculated to, and often does secure the return of candidates, in every way suitable, yet whom no other system could include. Some of our correspondents have advocated an entirely "ex officio" system; of this, however, we cannot entirely approve for the reason above stated: and a perusal of the letter

of "Alta Petens" in our December number will show how great complications would inevitably follow from the adoption of his plan.

We therefore beg to recommend to the consideration of our readers the following scheme, which has been well considered, and which seems to us to combine the principal advantages of both systems. Retaining the number of seven as at present, let the committee be constituted as follows:—

The Captain	} <i>ex officio.</i>
The Head Town Boy	
The Captain of the Cricket Eleven	
The Head of the Water	
The Captain of the Football Eleven	
One Upper Election, elected by the Queen's Scholars.	
One Town Boy, in the Sixth or Shell, and over 16, elected by the Town Boys.	

There would probably be some coincidences out of this number in most years: for these we would provide in two ways. First, we would have a general rule, that any one who had been on one year's committee, and was still in the school the year after, should be on the com-

mittee. This would of course happen in the case of the *ex officio* members: if an elected member were still in the school, he might supply any vacancy caused by a coincidence of two offices on one person, or no new election would be necessary. The advantage of a member of a former committee retaining his place is too obvious to need discussion. If any vacancy were still left, a second round might be begun, i. e. the Head Monitor, Second Town Boy, Second in Cricket, &c. This plan seems less complicated than any that have been suggested before, besides avoiding a fault very noticeable in the scheme of "Alta Petens," namely, that it tended to draw as many members as possible from the Football Eleven, who have evidently the least time to give in the few weeks preceding the Athletic Sports. The case of an *ex officio* member not wishing to join the committee is not likely to occur often: under such circumstances, the next in his own eleven or eight would take his place. A committee thus representing all interests could hardly fail to ensure respect, and would probably be more efficient than one elected under any other scheme.

A MORE important subject, one less discussed at present, yet of which the consideration cannot be much longer delayed, is that of the rules under which the Captains of Cricket and Football, and the Head of the Water, are annually chosen. At present the office falls to the one who has been longest in the Eleven, with one exception: that a Third Election always retires in favour of a Senior. This state of things is very anomalous, both practically and theoretically. Practically, suppose a Third Election to have been longest in the Eleven, a Town Boy next, and a Senior third. Which should be the captain? We do not know, nor have we ever found any one who did: and though such a case may not actually have occurred lately, it becomes more likely to happen every year. Again, if we admit the principle of seniority in School position in the case of Queen's Scholars, how much more necessary is such a provision in the case of Town Boys? One simple rule, if adopted, would obviate both difficulties: let no Town Boy below the Shell be eligible as Captain of the Cricket or Football Elevens, or as Head of the Water. This rule would be to all practical purposes exactly analogous to the Queen's Scholar rule: and both might be made simply disqualifying, so that no complications could by any chance ensue. The impossibility of a Town Boy low in the school having the influence necessary for the efficient management of an Eleven, and the evil effect of giving high positions in the School to

those who absolutely throw away the best part of their time, are so obvious that it is needless to speak of them to any one who has the smallest grain of common sense.

A more difficult point is to settle who ought to take the initiative in bringing about such a change. The rule itself is a purely Town Boy question; while the suggested rider, that both rules should be merely negative, gives no advantage to Queen's Scholars over Town Boys, or *vice versâ*. On the whole, the best plan would seem to be that the principal Town Boys should first consider the question by themselves, and if they find themselves pretty well agreed, bring it before a joint meeting of the Sixth, Elevens, and Eight. Such a body would probably be more respected than any smaller one, at which it would be said that all interests were not represented. But whatever is done, let it be at once. Perhaps it will not often happen that personal considerations will be so entirely absent as at present; and when such a rule would have immediate effect, it would be sure to excite much more opposition than at a time like the present, when the subject would be considered fairly on its own merits. It might indeed be added, that no one at present in either Elevens or Eight should be affected by any new rule: and this would take away the last vestige of a difficulty in dealing with this question.

School Notes.

AN article appears in another part of this number of *The Elizabethan*, which has been sent to us for publication by a Young Old Westminster, and which strongly advocates the formation of a Debating Society at Westminster. Whilst entirely agreeing with the writer's principles, it is impossible to ignore the exceptional difficulties under which such a scheme labours at Westminster, and which make much consideration necessary before rashly adopting any plan on the subject. In the first place, Westminster being comparatively a small school, we have nothing like the number of boys who might be expected to take interest in a debating society at a larger school. Then there are a greater number of half and home boarders in the upper forms of the school, and there will be much difficulty in getting any number of these to attend a meeting after school-hours in the evening. At most schools, we believe, Saturday evening is the usual time for the meetings of a Debating Society, but this would of course be impossible at Westminster, since scarcely a quarter of the school remain here on Saturdays and Sundays. Under the circumstances, we cannot but think that the Sixth was right in declining to pledge itself to the principle of a Debating Society before some definite scheme was presented to them. But if the plan which has been since agreed upon is practicable (and we see no reason why this should not be

so), by all means let it be tried. If it fail, (and we fear this is only too likely to happen) the promoters of the scheme will deserve more praise for their boldness than blame for their rashness. However, a few days will show.

WE are glad to be able to announce a very pleasant reform. The book, out of which school prayers are read, has been long noticed as a somewhat disreputable article. Now at length, however, through the kindness of a member of the school, a prayer-book has been illuminated and presented "*curæ monitorum*." It has been designed and executed by the donor. The illumination consists of four pages:—a frontispiece, and three sheets with the prayers. The lettering is the old English black letter. The capitals are gold on a red ground, and form a very pleasing relief to the black of the lettering. The margin is filled with a foliated scrollwork border in gold and colours. A small sketch of the line of masters at prayers has been effectively introduced on the last page. The book has been strongly bound in Russian leather, no unimportant consideration, if, as intended, the book is to last as long as the school does. It is proposed to use it only on Saints' Days, and occasions when Old Westminsters have gained us holidays by their successes. Bound up with the prayers, is paging sufficient to contain the signatures of the captains and monitors for 640 years; at the end of that period a subscription must be raised for more pages and a new binding: after which it will take at least two monitors to read prayers from it, unless a lectern has previously been erected to carry it. If no such timely precaution be taken, we can only wish the monitors 640 years hence strong arms and clear voices, and if Macaulay's New Zealander and the Battle of Dorking have not come to pass before that time, Floreat Schola Westmonasteriensis Anno MM.D.X.V.

ON several occasions correspondents in our pages have called attention to the dusty state of the Library. One mentioned the window, another now notices the books, and a third might have been added to the list, the bust of Sir Francis Burdett. Some artistic youth, doubtless in his zeal for classical proportions and academy rules, thinking that the lines of the nose were wrong, has tastefully hinted in pencil his ideas of anatomical correctness. Another youth, enraged, perhaps, at the revolutionary tendencies of him who was called "England's Pride and Westminster's Glory," when Westminster was the radical borough, has tweaked the baronial nose, neglecting previously to wash his thumb and forefinger. Yet another, considering that the sculptor had been too modest in merely carving his name on the bust, has considerably darkened the letters for him. Such things are, or should be, more characteristic of the irrepressible "Arry," than of a Westminster boy. The mischief done, however, is fortunately not irreparable. Why, then, should we not follow the excellent example set by the Metropolitan Board of Works, who are reported on credible authority to have lately had one of the

public statues washed? The bookcases would certainly be none the worse for a dusting. *Erit haud sine pulvere palma*, we know; but the library has accumulated dust enough for two or three palmæ by this time, and really could afford to be robbed of some of it.

A SCHOOL collection was held on Wednesday, Feb. 24 (St. Matthias' Day), for the Melanesian Missions. The amount collected was £19 8s. 8d.

Election.

THE subjects for examination this year for the Major Candidates, are as follows:—

EASTER.

Homer, Il., books v. vi.
Virgil, Æn., books xi. xii.
Greek and Latin Translation and Composition.

WHITSUNTIDE.

Æschylus, Prometheus Vincetus.
Plato, Phædo.
Cicero, Select Epistles, pt. ii.
Horace, Satires, book i., Odes, book iv.
Greek Testament, Epistles to the Thessalonians, &c.
Golden Treasury Psalter.
Pearson's History of England, vol. i.
Homer, Iliad, book iv. } *vivâ voce*.
Virgil, Æneid, book x. }
The Mathematical subjects as usual.

The Minor Candidates have already had two Examinations and one Greek challenge. The subjects for the first examination were: Latin and Greek Grammar, Latin and Greek Translation, Latin Prose, Arithmetic: for the second examination, Mathematics and French.

We subjoin the total of marks in each examination.

	FIRST EXAMINATION.	SECOND EXAMINATION.	TOTAL.
	(Full Marks 240.)	(Full Marks 190.)	(Full Marks 430.)
Lowry, H.	152	94	246
Guest, E.	136	108	244
Tepper, C. W.	164	69	233
Egerton, W. R.	136	57	193
Eddis, E. A.	111	78	189
Marshall, H. M.	124	26	150
Cuppige, W. A.	97	41	138
Mead, R.	87	50	137
Clark, F. R.	76	34	110
Thorne, E. G.	86	24	110
Cobby, F. E.	95	10	105
Sercombe, R. T.	66	37	103
Bulkley, H.	80	10	90
Page, V. F.	73	8	81

The first Greek challenge was on Saturday, February 20th. The most important change was that Eddis took successively all his rivals, and was thus left head.

SHROVE-TUESDAY.

COMING events cast their shadows before, and those who are watchful enough, can generally tell how near Shrove-Tuesday is without consulting their Almanacs. Eager schoolboys are constantly gazing on the bar in the middle of the school, as if it could tell them what would happen the next day; others explaining to new-comers our ancient custom, and pointing out the higher bar over which it was the ambition of old cooks to throw the pancake. Again, why does College John walk about with a more hurried step than usual, and with a half smile on his face, yet withal seeming to wish to contract his proportions as far as possible, and to screen himself from general observation? To-morrow he is to appear in the unwonted character of cook, and though his diligent practice on the Saturday before has made him pretty confident in his powers, he still remembers with anxiety the rumours of the fate which used to attend the unsuccessful cook in days of old. Again it is instructive to watch the second-election who performs the office of Mon: Os. If he is of a modest character, it may be noticed that he does not join in the frequent discussions on the stability of the pancake, or if he does, he betrays but a very languid interest in it. If he is not troubled by any such constitutional weakness, he is only loud in his lamentations that he cannot join in the "greeze" himself. In either case, he may be seen consulting his predecessor of the year before, and appears delighted to find that after all his duties are not so very onerous, and no one is thinking of him. Then the most probable candidates for the ultimate possession of the pancake are discussed; a futile operation, for on the rare occasions when that article of food (?) is not torn to pieces, it is generally obtained by some one entirely unthought of before. But as the eventful hour approaches there is a general cessation of discussion, and all agree to await the actual event. A few moments before twelve a general restlessness is perceptible, only checked for a time by the appearance of the Head Master for prayers. Then there is a general disbanding of gowns, watches, keys, purses, and other superfluous articles, into the hands of the quiet portion of the community; a crowd collects before the bar, whilst all available stand-points are used by the spectators. Up comes the cook preceded in all due dignity by the mace, and appearing more or less timid, and followed by a certain number of visitors who have come to see the annual ceremony. Now the pancake is thrown: there it goes right up and over—no! it has got entangled in the beams near the roof and comes down again just the wrong side of the bar. The cook flies for his life. However we are accustomed now to some misfortune the first time; the cook is recalled; the pancake is restored to its place in the frying-pan, and this time it is tossed clean over the bar into the middle of the maddened crowd beyond. Here there is an end to the true history of the pancake; some say that it fell to the ground and was trampled to pieces; some that it was caught falling and half of it torn away by some jealous candidate. However the crowd of boys, big

and small, tries to imagine that the article is still existing whole, hoping against hope, and moving first in one direction, and then in another; now to the clear space in the middle of the school, now over the forms at the side, till they leave off by mutual consent, when the largest portion remaining of the pancake, about one eighth of its real size, is displayed with much gusto by its fortunate possessor.

The Fields.

SINCE our last number we have only played two foreign matches, as we were disappointed in one, owing to unforeseen circumstances mentioned in the report below, and our match with Charterhouse, which had been fixed for Saturday, Feb. 20th, was postponed on account of the weather, which made their ground unsafe for playing on. In the first of these matches our adversaries were labouring under great disadvantages, so that we were able to secure an easy victory, but in the second we were greatly overmatched and over-weighted. However, there are such things as honourable defeats, and this was certainly one, considering the players who arranged themselves against us, and although it must be confessed we played too much in bodies, instead of keeping our line, yet it seemed to be the only way of making progress against such a heavy mass. Still we cannot complain much, as this is only the second defeat we have sustained this season, but it is to be hoped it will be the last. As regards School matches, the Eleven and the Nine respectively scored very easy victories, owing, however, more to the inferior play of their opponents, than to any particular excellence on their own part; which state of things certainly does not forebode well for the future, but no doubt before the time arrives when good men are wanted for the Eleven, some will be worthy of promotion, though at present the prospects are not very encouraging. The Sixth and School was a very evenly contested game, and despite the Sixth having to put up with whatever men they could get, yet their energetic play made up for their inferiority in strength, and almost succeeded in making the game a tie. Only one House match has been played at present, viz. Rigaud's v. Home Boarders, because the time and ground could not well be spared for any more, as it was wanted for practice. The game was a very one-sided affair, as Rigaud's managed to get their proper team together, which is an unusually heavy one, and includes amongst its number one of the School backs, and the goal-keeper, whilst Home Boarders were very inadequately represented from different causes, and their best player had left at the end of last half. But notwithstanding these difficulties they fought well and did the best they could. The Eleven may fairly be congratulated on the general advancement in their play, but still there is abundant room for improvement, especially in goals, which is very often considered an easy place, and consequently not much trouble is spent over it, whereas it is one of the most responsible places in the field, and requires a good eye and a

nicety in judgment, which only practice can make perfect. A change for the better has been made in playing Waddington back, as he is very fast on his legs, and although a little erratic in his kicking, in which no doubt he will improve, yet he can generally be relied on for stopping an opponent in some way or other. Lastly, a successful candidate for the vacancy in the Eleven has been found in F. Rawson, who bids fair to become a prominent forward; so the Eleven now consists of

P. G. L. Webb (Capt.)	W. C. Aston
E. H. Alington	J. H. Williams (back)
E. Waddington (half back)	C. S. Davson
F. D. Crowdy	A. F. M. Gamble (goals)
C. J. M. Fox (back)	F. L. Rawson.
F. Whitehead	

The remaining fixtures are—

Mond. March 1st . .	v. Charterhouse.
Wed. „ 3rd . .	v. Wanderers.
Wed. „ 10th . .	v. Civil Service.
Sat. „ 13th . .	v. Gitanos.
Wed. „ 17th . .	T. B. B. v. Q. S. S.

Mr. H. S. Otter's Eleven v. Westminster School.—Saturday, January 30th.—The Clapham Rovers, who had arranged a match for that day, having to postpone it to a future time (as they had to play off their tie for the Association Challenge Cup), H. S. Otter, our late Captain, kindly offered to bring down a team of men who had been playing at the Oval on the same day, which offer we readily accepted. We did not begin until about 3.30, as they did not finish their match until shortly before that time, and therefore could not come down before, and as some of the men who had promised to play against us were too done up to play a second game, they could only get together nine men. We, having the advantage of being fresh and superior in numbers, managed to pen them most of the time, as several of their men seemed to have had enough of it previously, but we were only able to score two goals, although we had several shots. Both of these were gained in brilliant style by Webb, whose play was all that could be desired. Of the game little need be said as it was so one-sided, and it will be enough to state that all the Eleven did their duty. For our adversaries Otter, Parry, and Kenrick did their best under the circumstances.

H. S. Otter's Eleven.—H. S. Otter (Capt.), E. H. Parry, R. Fort, J. Kenrick, J. A. Hampson, H. S. Jackson (back), A. H. Gipps, W. W. Drew, A. C. Williams (back).

Westminster School.—P. G. L. Webb (Capt.), E. H. Alington, E. Waddington, F. D. Crowdy, C. J. M. Fox (back), F. Whitehead, W. C. Aston, J. H. Williams (back), C. S. Davson, C. C. Macnamara, F. Rawson.

V. Crystal Palace. Thursday, February 11th.—The Crystal Palace, evidently wishing to wipe out the disgrace of their defeat of last half, brought down as heavy a team as they could well get together, and amongst their number some names appear, which we suspect, were not those of strictly Crystal Palace men. But, whoever they may be, they gained a decided victory by

five goals to none. As twelve men turned up on their side, we were obliged to take in a twelfth man, an addition which certainly did not improve our situation. The game was very fast throughout, and although they had the best of it, we made several determined attacks on their fortress, only to be repulsed by their impregnable goal-keeper. Once, indeed, the ball did find its way through their posts, after a very good piece of play on the part of Waddington, who was playing up for a short time, but the goal was not scored, as unluckily the ball had hit one of our side under the arm just before. Of their goals two were kicked by Smith, and one each by Chenery and Allport, while our goal-keeper, whose defence was anything but perfect, gave them the fifth. Aston, Alington, and Waddington were most conspicuous on our side, and perhaps Smith, Kingsford, and Chenery on our adversaries'.

Crystal Palace.—C. S. Smith (Capt.), R. K. Kingsford (half-back), L. H. Neame, C. J. Chenery, R. L. Allport, A. H. Savage (goal-keeper), W. S. Buchanan, C. Barber (back), F. Maddison, C. W. Alcock, W. Lindsay (back), W. Foster.

Westminster.—P. G. L. Webb (Capt.), E. H. Alington, E. Waddington (back), F. D. Crowdy, C. J. M. Fox (back), F. Whitehead, W. C. Aston, J. H. Williams, C. S. Davson, A. F. M. Gamble, F. L. Rawson, H. G. H. Olliffe (half-back).

The following School matches have also been played:—

Eleven v. Twenty-two.—This, our first school-match this half, was played on Tuesday, February 2, and ended in an easy victory for the Eleven, by five goals to one. Of the game little need be said, as the ball was kept well down in the Twenty-two's quarters all the time, except when towards the end of the game, Frere got away with the ball, and eluding the opposite backs, passed the ball on to Longstaffe, who managed to pass it through the posts. The goals of the Eleven were gained by Rawson, Crowdy, and Webb, and two were kindly kicked for them by members of the Twenty-two.

The Eleven.—P. G. L. Webb (Capt.), E. H. Alington, F. D. Crowdy, C. J. M. Fox, F. Whitehead, W. C. Aston, J. H. Williams, C. S. Davson, A. F. M. Gamble, C. C. Macnamara, F. Rawson.

The Twenty-two.—W. C. Ryde (Capt.), W. H. A. Cowell, G. M. Hill, R. D. Brinton, C. A. Jones, R. F. Macmillan, H. R. K. Rogers, C. B. Vyvyan, H. P. Robinson, O. R. Borradaile, T. Secretan, A. P. Longstaffe, T. B. Jones, H. G. H. Olliffe, A. A. N. Jackson, G. Frere, C. Taylor, C. Secretan, B. Rogers, E. W. Pole, C. B. Ryde, T. F. F. Williams.

Nine v. Fifteen.—On the following day, Wednesday, we had arranged to play the Harrow Chequers, but as they were unable to get a team together because of the trial Elevens going on at the Oval, we polished off this return match with exactly the same result as last half's, viz. five to none in favour of the Nine. The Nine had it all their own way, and easily secured their goals, which were kicked by Aston (2), Crowdy, Whitehead, and Alington.

The Nine.—P. G. L. Webb (Capt.), E. H. Alington, F. D. Crowdy, C. J. M. Fox, F. Whitehead, W. C. Aston, J. H. Williams, C. S. Davson, A. F. M. Gamble.

The Fifteen.—W. C. Ryde (Capt.), R. D. Brinton, F. L. Rawson, H. R. K. Rogers, C. B. Vyvyan, H. P. Robinson, T. Secretan, A. P. Longstaffe, T. B. Jones, H. G. H. Olliffe, R. F. Macmillan, A. A. N. Jackson, G. Frere, O. R. Borradaile, C. B. Ryde.

Sixth v. School.—This annual match took place on Shrove Tuesday, and after a sharp contest resulted in a victory for the School by one goal to none. The game was very even till half time, but after goals were changed, Fox made a good run with the ball and middled it to Rawson, who succeeded in passing it just under

the tape. Not long afterwards the ball was again put between the posts by Macnamara, but the goal was disallowed on a charge of outsidings; play was continued for a quarter of an hour beyond time, but no further success was gained by either side, although just before time was called, Webb made a fine run and nearly succeeded in securing a goal; thus the School remained victors by one goal to none. For the Sixth, Webb, Alington, and Whitehead did good service, and for the School, Crowdy, Fox, and Rawson, were most conspicuous.

For the Sixth.—P. G. L. Webb (Capt.), E. H. Alington, F. Whitehead, J. H. Williams, W. C. Ryde, W. H. Cowell, G. M. Hill, G. A. Bolton, R. D. Brinton, H. R. Rogers, J. A. Turner.

For the School.—E. Waddington, (Capt.), F. D. Crowdy, C. J. Fox, W. C. Aston, C. S. Davson, A. F. M. Gamble, F. L. Rawson, C. C. Macnamara, H. Olliffe, J. Hicks, C. B. Vyvyan.

Rigaud's v. Home-Boarders.—This match was played on the 4th of February, and ended rather disastrously for the Home-boarders, who were unfortunate enough to have five of their Eleven absent on the day, which greatly reduced the strength of their side. The ball was kicked off at 12.30 by Cartwright for Homeboarders, and was for some time kept well in the middle of the ground, until a united rush was made by the Home-boarders, which after a claim of hands just in front of the Rigaud's goal, resulted in a goal from Simson's foot. However, C. Fox, for Rigaud's, soon equalized matters. The ball was, after this, for some time in dangerous proximity to the Homeboarders' goal, and Rogers succeeded in putting it through, but the goal was disallowed on a charge of offsidings; however, he soon seized an opportunity of securing another. After this a rush from Home-boarders nearly resulted in a second goal, but by good play of the backs, the ball was returned to the middle of the ground, when C. Fox, by a good run down, made the score 3 to 1. Not long after this Fox secured another goal for Rigaud's. Homeboarders, who doubtless felt the loss of the five absent members of their Eleven, failed to increase their score. Rogers again secured a goal, and Abernethy another for Rigaud's, making the score 6 to 1, when time was called. For Rigaud's, C. Fox, B. Rogers, and Jackson played best. Fortune did not allow the latter to secure any goals, although he made several good attempts. For Homeboarders, Cartwright, T. Secretan, and Hollis played well. The sides were as follows:—

Rigaud's.—C. Fox (Capt.), Gamble, J. Fox (backs), Jackson, Taylor, B. Rogers, Rodocanachi, H. Reece (goals), H. W. Macnamara, H. Abernethy, J. Abernethy.

Homeboarders.—A. B. Cartwright (Capt.), C. Muir, E. Frere (backs), T. Secretan, Borradaile, Hollis, Shadwell, Caiger (goals), Simson, Ellis, Sandwith.

DEBATE.

"Fidimus eloquio."—*Juv.*

It was not so very long ago that a letter appeared in the columns of this paper advocating the establishing of a Debating Society at Westminster. Although no cordial response has yet been made to the sensible and well-advised proposal, it can scarcely be imagined that the subject can be dismissed without some further appeal on a matter of such importance.

It is not rash to state our belief, that of the great public schools of England, we shall scarcely find one which has not its debating or literary society, and which is not greatly benefited by it; but surely it is surprising to find that Westminster—the school which more than any other is placed in the very atmosphere of eloquence, both parliamentary and forensic, is pre-eminently silent. In these days, when there are perhaps few qualities more esteemed than fluent speech and a good delivery, a man, who, when called upon either to return thanks on a public occasion, or to propose the health of an old friend at the festive

board, instead of delighting the assembled company with his ready wit in fluent and well-adapted language, turns crimson and stammers forth a few disjointed sentences—this man, we say, may well be considered imperfect in his education. Again, we see (and that not seldom) a preacher who distinctly fails in the pulpit either from natural inability in extemporaneous preaching or from a faulty delivery.

Now the question is this. How are these faults to be cured? How is the man to learn to stand up, trusting in his own wit and power of speech not to disgrace himself in the eyes of the company at the public meeting or the wedding breakfast? or how is the preacher to gain a fluent and impressive delivery? The answer is simple: by practice. And this practice is to be obtained in the first place—at school. The boy is to learn to face the criticizing eyes and the absorbed attention of his fellows; he is to learn to *think upon his legs*; and then even if he does not turn out an orator, still he will not shrink into his shoes at the very mention of a required after-dinner speech.

An ancient Roman writer, while discoursing on the qualifications of a public speaker, laid down three important rules to be followed in the pursuit of excellence in speaking.

(1.) The student must *read*, that he may gain material for his speeches, and a vocabulary wherein to express his thoughts.

(2.) He must *listen* to good speakers, that he may form a good style and delivery.

(3.) (And on this rule he lays the greatest stress.) He must *practise* the art itself, as without practice the other two advantages are useless.

Now while a boy is at Westminster, he is singularly favoured in respect to the first two points. He is educated in all the treasures that ancient history and oratory can display, and also he possesses any advantages which the proximity of the Law-courts or Parliament House may afford. In the last point "*mirabile dictu*" his education has been hitherto neglected, he has no practice in speaking while at school. When he goes up to the University may be, he finds opportunities in the numerous societies which there abound; but he cannot appreciate their advantages as fully as those who have tasted them while still at school. Now this is a great subject for enterprising consideration, whether a society cannot be started at Westminster. It would scarcely fail to be supported by the authorities; there would be a fit time for the meetings once or twice a week after afternoon school, and without doubt the service rendered to, and amusement gained by a large majority of the school, would be immense. Before long Westminster would find itself able to hold its own with other schools in oratorical talent, and would perhaps even boast of speakers of whom it might be said as of Pericles of old, *in labris eorum sedisse quandam persuadendi deam*.

At a meeting of the Sixth held on Monday, February the 22nd, it was ultimately resolved to adopt provisionally the scheme proposed for a Debating Society.

Poetry.

SONNET.

PERSONAL spirit, habitant divine !

Whose mystery this ruinous prison shrouds :
O shadow'd sun, seen dimly through the clouds
Which hang around thee like a crystal shrine
Impenetrable, though thy face may shine
'Minish'd and spectral through the lucent veil,
In those rare hours when o'er my being sail
Unearthly thoughts, not all of heaven, nor mine,
And now I seem all things to comprehend,
Now nothing but the world's long falsehood vain :
O thou who hast the power to break or bend
This body : to win freedom, or to reign
A kingly prisoner, be this thy boast,
"For right and truth I dare defy a host !"

1872.

Old Legends.

DITCH-LEAPING.

THE 1st of March, or St. David's day, was a high day, and an early play dedicated to ditch-leaping, a healthy and invigorating, though not a cleanly, athletic exercise. The boys went with long poles to Battersea fields, and there persistently leapt all the ditches which intersected that semi-barbarous neighbourhood; the smaller fry of ditches were cleared with ease and comfort, but there were two crucial ditches, over which the best leapers were bound to come to grief, poles and all. The bigger boys led the van, and as the smaller fell in, the bigger stood up to the mid-waist in slush and mud, and hauled out their smaller companions. The feat performed, they returned, and dined in honour of St. David. Every "poy" who could prove a Welch descent got a sovereign from Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, whose descendants, much to their honour, keep up the custom: the amount of Welch descents claimed on this occasion was very great, in fact, it was simply an abuse, and, like all abuses and sinecures, has been straitened by the reforming hand of the nineteenth century.

What ditch-leaping had to do with St. David is not explained, nor perhaps explainable; *factum puta'*; let it be taken as a fact without further inquiry. The fact has ceased, for *cessante causa cessit ipsa lex*. There are no ditches to leap, so there can be no ditch-leaping. Battersea fields have been improved off the face of the earth, and now Battersea Park, with its gate-keepers and railings and shabby propriety, has taken its place; and there are now but a few of the oldest of old Westminster who can remember the delights of a flying leap into the Battersea ditches.

L. L. D.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A HOME-BOARDER.

No. IV.

I WILL conclude these disjointed notes with a brief allusion to some private Theatricals got up among the Home-boarders during the holidays. A house on the Terrace was placed at their service by the owner, an ardent Old Westminster, who spared no pains to en-

sure the success of the play, and himself undertook the part of prompter, and superintended the rehearsals. It was long a joke among us to relate how, in "Twice Killed," he endeavoured to persuade one of the last of the purple-gowned Bishop's boys, Dry John as he was nicknamed, to throw a little life into the part; and how the only occasion, when for a moment he freed himself from his stick-iness was, when, on the footman announcing that all the beds at the inn were engaged and there was no accommodation for the newly-arrived guests, he exclaimed, with a sudden burst of energy, "How *very* satisfactory!" an accidental slip for "unfortunate." The glory of the evening, however, was Chrononhotonthologos; and I flatter myself that my own part, if not the most important, was at any rate not the least accurately recited; I was one of the pages, and my memory was not burdened with any greater task than to scream "Murder! murder!" at the top of my voice, when my royal master was assassinated.

It is somewhat melancholy to look back on that party, and think how many of them have perished in distant countries, or scarcely lived even to enter on a career. Not so, however, with all; and, though I cannot bring to mind any one of the troop who has not long ago left the neighbourhood, and whose sons, if now sent to Westminster, could go from their father's house as day-boys, I have yet the pleasure of occasionally meeting them and talking over old times, ere under an Indian or Australian sun they sought the road to fortune; and I could hardly wish more enjoyment for the present generation than by hoping that whether in College or the boarding-houses, whether half-boarders or living at home, they may have as happy a boyhood as I did as a home-boarder.

FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

CHRIST CHURCH has taken off its second Torpid; Vidal and Brinton are rowing in the first, which is likely to gain some places.

Owing to the stupid rowdyism of some "scis," who are also undergraduates, at last year's Commemoration, it is proposed to confer Degrees this year without allowing any undergraduates at all to be present.

The new Vice-Chancellor has also issued an edict to suppress horse-racing, so that there will be no college "grinds" in the future.

FROM OUR CAMBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT.

A PHASE of hard wintry weather, fruitful of colds and coughs, set in on the 17th of February and has hardly yet passed away. It interfered badly with the University Handicaps, spoilt the Cottenham Races, makes the river seem unlovely to the most enthusiastic of boating men, and the Senate House uncomfortable to the sixty-seven candidates for Classical Honours who have just entered upon their examination troubles.

In despite of all the rain, wind, frost, and snow, however, the University Crew have been in constant practice, and they may now be considered to have

undergone the very last re-arrangement so far as can be now foreseen, since Benson has taken his seat as No. 7. The boat goes much better than the rumours of the last fortnight would lead people to imagine, and there is no apparent reason why Cambridge should not add another victory to the long series gained of late years.

For the Lent Races, which commence on the 9th of March, several clubs (Third Trinity among the number) have in training additional boats, which will have to race among themselves for the precarious honour of the last place on the river. The "Non-Ascripti" also for the first time will put on a boat, without a contest, as it is their only one.

Cat's, Caius, Corpus and Trinity Hall, have held Athletic Sports this term, and at the latter in particular some very good racing took place, which however gives little indication of what are our chances of securing the odd events at Lillie Bridge. The University Handicaps began in very fine weather, on the first day, February 16, when there were some exciting finishes in the trial heats of the 120 and 440 yards races; but the event of the day was the Mile Handicap, where Hewitt, an old Light Blue runner, met Sandford, who runs for Oxford. They were both at scratch, and a fast and interesting race resulted in the victory of Hewitt in 4 min. 36 $\frac{2}{3}$ secs.; Sandford's time was 4 min. 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

The second day was the very antithesis of the first, cold with a strong north-easterly breeze by which all the times were made slow, the 120 yards taking 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs. to cover, and the 440 (less 21 yards) 52 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs. The Hurdle-race, 120 yards, over ten hurdles, was started against a strong squall of wind and rain, and won by C. E. Robinson, in 20 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs., from scratch. Last came the Three Miles race, and the time of this, 16 min. 21 secs., was good, considering the adverse weather.

In the Inter-University Sports, at Lillie Bridge, Westminster will probably have one representative, W. R. Bedford, who ran for Cambridge in the Hurdle-race last year. The New Pavilion at the Cricket Ground (late Fenner's), is now very nearly completed, and promises to be a very neat-looking and useful structure. The cost is about £3000, to which the Dons contributed very liberally. It replaces a miserable shed, barely weatherproof, small and ugly. There was an open-air auction, the other day, of the *débris* of the wooden grand-stand which was blown down last term, so that this will in all probability never be re-erected.

The Beagles, the Drag, Football, Chess, and Bicycle Clubs, the University Sermons, the Volunteers, Professors, Lecturers, Polo, Proctors, Freshmen, Dogmen, Reading-men and Junior Deans have all been flourishing with their wonted activity of late, but as nothing extraordinary has happened in connexion with them, want of time and space must exclude all detailed allusion to them for the present.

P.S.—A ridiculous misprint occurred in my last letter, in which it was stated that the University Crew had been practising "on the land." I wrote, "on the Cam."

TO CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

THE yearly subscription for *The Elizabethan* has been fixed at 3s. 6s., (including postage), which is now due.

All Subscribers at Oxford are requested to immediately pay the subscriptions now due to F. B. Lott, Christ Church, or by P. O. O. to E. H. Alington, St. Peter's College, Westminster; and at Cambridge, to E. H. Holthouse, Trinity College.

Post Office Orders to be made payable to E. H. Alington (Treasurer), at the Westminster Palace Hotel.

Contributions for our next Number to be sent in by March 21st, but correspondence only will be received up to March 23rd by the Editor, 1, Dean's Yard.

All other communications to be addressed to W. H. A. Cowell (Secretary), St. Peter's College, Westminster, and on no account either to the Editor or Printers.

Several letters have been omitted from want of space.

Subscriptions to the Ginger Testimonial Fund may be sent to A. B. Cartwright, 1, Dean's Yard, and will be acknowledged in our next Number.

We must apologise to our readers for the long delay in bringing out the illustrations for the Play number. A photograph has now been printed, instead of any further etchings, and is given to last year's Subscribers with the present number.

A Second Edition of the First Number of *The Elizabethan* has been printed. Copies can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of *The Wykehamist*, *The Carthusian*, *The Meteor*, and *The Blue*.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of the *Elizabethan*, which has shown itself so efficient in redressing grievances, to state mine: I do not see what possible good there can be in the practice of covering the schoolroom walls with the names of boys who have never risen above the fourth form, and whose only reminiscences of Westminster will be impositions and up-school. Surely if this custom is to be continued, a certain space might be set apart for those who have risen to a higher position, or have gained some distinction at College. Why should the rabble of fourth form boys be honoured by having their names, which will never be a credit anywhere, painted on the classical walls of Westminster? M.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—With regard to your correspondent R's suggestion about fixing a time for the Athletics which may be free from rain, I have a few words to say. I cannot promise two fine days at any time of the year, but he is most likely to get them in the summer, when you must admit I very often keep Vincent Square quite dry. If owing to cricket, election, or other reasons, the Athletics cannot be held between April and September, my experience, which I venture to think takes in more years than R's, leads me to think the beginning or middle of October as likely to be free from rain as any other time; and I can almost promise you that the ground shall not then be frozen very hard, or covered with snow. Yours condescendingly,

THE CLERK OF THE WEATHER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—May I be allowed to suggest, in all humility, that in your accounts of football matches the word "leather" be not substituted for "football." I think a paper like the *Elizabethan*, should, if possible, avoid the horrid slang of the lower class of sporting paper, especially such words as "sphere," "timber-yard," "leather," &c. Yours truly,

R. W. S. V.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—By some accident, I suppose, when the door in the Racquet-court was repainted, they forgot to renew the white line across it, which used to be there, and which is necessary for playing racquets. As our ties for The Racquet will soon be coming off, I think it will not be out of place to ask you to insert this information, in the hope that a few pennyworths of paint will be spent over it before long. Yours truly,

ENTHUSIAST.

Floreat.