



The Elizabethan.

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LIBRARY.

THERE is perhaps no subject which has of late years attracted so little notice, or has been so consistently and universally neglected, as the School Library. We publish this month a timely protest from a correspondent, who, with great justice, draws attention to the lamentable fact, that both books and cases are in a disgraceful state of disorder and disrepair. The books, begrimed with the dust of ages, are in many cases scattered about in helpless confusion; the shelves themselves, some half-filled, others containing nothing but dirt and littered paper; the wire that is supposed to adorn the front everywhere rusty and in many places positively dropping to pieces. It is rather surprising that an evil so obvious and so continually under the eyes of, presumably, the most influential part of the School, should have failed to compel notice or to disturb the peace of mind of the order-loving. The fact probably is, that the force of habit has so inured us to this state of things that its unsightliness ceases to strike us, and we

look upon it almost as a matter of course. It is none the less a matter which needs the most speedy and thorough attention, and as the School seems to have taken a new lease of life lately, and one or two extremely beneficial movements have been made, we think it will not be amiss to bring so pressing and important a matter before the public notice. The abuse is so flagrant, so apparent, and calls so loudly for reform, that it ought no longer to be passed over in silence. The books are all thickly covered with dust, and slowly mouldering away through sheer neglect, if not actually worm-eaten: the state of disorder in which they lie must be conspicuous to anyone who enters the room. It cannot, with any fairness, be pleaded in excuse that the books are practically useless as well as old, and interesting only to the antiquary as curiosities. The School itself is old, but do we not love and value it the more for that? The books are old, but for that very reason they are rare and valuable, and we should prize them the more. But however old, ugly, and uninteresting they were (and such they are certainly not), this could never justify us in

so grossly neglecting them as we do now. Better almost, if, indeed, we value our advantages at so low a rate, to get rid of them altogether, cleanse the shelves, and shut up the cases, than leave them to disfigure, instead of adorn, the handsome piece of carving which ornaments the library. But we ought most unquestionably to value Library as one of the most precious of our institutions, and to take pride in keeping it in order. It seems a very extraordinary fact, but it is nevertheless true, that there is no extant catalogue of this admirable collection of books, nor can we discover how they first came into existence. Here they were found and here they remain; but no one apparently knows how they came into the possession of the School; and except that several of the more modern ones were at various times presented by the kindness of friends, their origin is wrapped in mysterious obscurity. The present Head Master, when first he entered upon his duties, weeded out many of the less presentable books, and put the rest in order, but naturally had no time to attempt systematic arrangement or a catalogue. It may not be generally known that at one time the Library seems to have absorbed a great deal of the attention of the School. We find that in the year 1853 a Committee was formed, consisting of an equal number of Q.SS. and T.BB., not to exceed ten or fall below six, to manage the affairs of the School Library. We regret to state that the laudable efforts of this body do not seem to have been attended with the success they merited. A considerable amount of time was spent in electing numerous functionaries, and elaborating the minutiae of a theoretically excellent system on which books were to be lent, and the fines for dereliction of duty in any respect. We next learn that a considerable number of books were either presented by friends, or bought with the funds at the disposal of the Committee. Unfortunately, however, the notices grew gradually fewer, confined principally to discussions concerning the exaction of certain fines, till after a few years they entirely cease, and we hear of the subject no more. The reason probably was that the system, though very painstaking and particular, was too elaborate and burdensome to enable its operations to be continued with any degree of comfort. Now it is high time that something good and permanent should really be accomplished. The simplest way of effecting this would naturally be that the authorities should take the matter in hand, and in our humble opinion it is only right that they should. A competent judge from some great bookseller's,

well versed in the history of old books, should be hired, and, with assistants, set to work to arrange the books and compile a catalogue, while at the same time the shelves should be thoroughly cleansed, and the wires replaced by glass. If, however, what is really a necessary work is ever to be done, all that then remains is for members of the School to spare no time nor pains to do the work as thoroughly as is in their power. It is really highly improbable that, even among the old books, none should be found, if not of use, of interest, to those who have the slightest taste for curious literature; for many of them date from the 16th and 17th centuries, if not earlier. But even to say that they are all old is untrue. The fact is that one portion of Library—viz. blocks A and B—is devoted entirely to books more modern and of greater general interest, such as Grote's, Gibbon's and Hume's histories, and many other standard works, historical, critical scientific, and miscellaneous. These shelves are certainly in better condition than the rest, but that is all that can be said; they are dreadfully dusty, and the order is still far from perfect. It is a great pity that they are not really made of more practical use, for though it is always possible to borrow any of them on application to the librarian (for we are glad to inform 'Liber' that such an official *does* exist, nominally at least; the fact of his duties being confined to keeping the key is more the fault of others than his own), the privilege is very rarely made use of, even when it must be most needed. There are also a number of books in a series of cupboards in College, but as nothing is ever seen or heard of these, we do not feel competent to say more about them; though, in our humble judgment, if they are composed of those weeded out from Library as older and of less practical use, they must be of sufficient antiquity to merit a more honoured fate than consignment to perpetual oblivion in dusty cupboards.

This brings us to the consideration of the advisability of establishing a modern Library at Westminster, not to supersede, but to supplement that already in existence. The subject has occasionally been broached, but difficulties have been always pointed out, and the matter has dropped. But if difficulties which never fail to crop up in the way of every new undertaking were always regarded as insuperable, nothing would ever be accomplished either here or elsewhere; they must be overcome by determination and perseverance. We have already in our possession a solid foundation for a modern Library in the contents of blocks A and B, which would

help to form the graver and more useful portion of it, and by means of a subscription, voluntary or otherwise, in the School, and the kindness of O. W.'s, who would doubtless assist with their usual liberality, the materials for a really very creditable library would soon be in our hands. With regard to the place to put them in, by arranging the old books in as small a space as possible, and cleaning the shelves at present empty, fully enough room would be obtained for the books we should be likely to get together at first, and that is all need trouble us at present. It will be time enough to consider further expedients when not an inch is left unoccupied—a contingency desirable in itself, but not likely to occur for a long time yet. The books collected should comprise the English classics, both in prose and verse, the modern poets, standard histories, all books of general interest, the latest and best authorities in all branches of scientific research, the works of fiction of the best English authors, such as Scott, Dickens, Thackeray; and last, but not least, a good modern Encyclopædia. But these are minor details, which, as also the consideration of what body should be appointed to govern the affairs of the Library, would follow in due course if once the idea was seriously entertained. There is, however, one more particular which requires serious consideration before these suggestions can be of any practical value. What form should it take—a lending library or a reading room? The latter is the more desirable as involving the least trouble, if it could only be once established; but the difficulty is—and we fear it is an almost insuperable one, as was pointed out in the November number of *The Elizabethan* in 1877—that there is no sufficient time for this purpose, on account of the drawing classes, which occupy the room between 5.30 and 7 p.m. Therefore, unless these could be removed to one of the other class-rooms, only half-holidays are left available for making use of it. On the other hand, the difficulty as regards a lending library is, that it is more complicated and cumbrous. It involves a large amount of trouble on those who have to see after it; and there is danger of losing the books. This time and trouble is, to those whose hands are already pretty well filled, a weightier matter than might at first appear, and was probably the cause of the failure in the attempt of 1853. It could, of course, be greatly lessened if fellows would only combine together to give as little trouble as possible, and work regularly; but still it might sometimes prove irksome, and might at any time be made exceedingly troublesome by the contumacious. We think, on the whole, that, as in

so many cases, a middle course is after all the best; and it certainly offers a partial removal of the difficulties in each of the two plans. What we wish to suggest is, that the library should be thrown open to those who wish it on half-holidays and any other available times, and that on one day in the week, at 12.30 a.m., or any other convenient time, one or more members of the Committee, which we will suppose to have been appointed, should remain in Library and superintend the lending of books, carefully entering the title of the book, the name of the borrower, and the time of return, in a ledger set apart for that purpose. Such measures as these really seem to us to be feasible, and if once the movement could be begun, the minor details would soon be filled in. The advantages are too manifest to need discussion, and it would prove particularly useful to the Debating Society, which is now in such a flourishing condition.

However, what we wish more particularly for the present to draw attention to is, that measures should speedily be taken to put the books already in Library into a decent state. This term is, unfortunately, too far gone, and the Play too imminent to allow of any measures of importance being taken at once, but we trust we may at least have supplied food for wholesome meditation during the holidays to the most influential members of the School, which may bear active fruit at the beginning of next term, and remedy an evil which, until removed, must remain a blot on the reputation of Westminster.

'OLD WESTMINSTERS.'

No. III.

FIELD-MARSHAL THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEA.

THIS distinguished cavalry leader was born on May 17, 1768, one year before the birth of three illustrious soldiers, whose marvellous military careers were co-eval with his—Napoleon, Soult, and Wellington. He was the eldest son of Henry Bayly, ninth Baron Paget, and first Earl of Uxbridge in the revived peerage—third Earl counting from the first conference of the dignity—and Jane, his wife, eldest daughter of the Very Reverend Arthur Champagne, Dean of Clonmacnoise, in Ireland, and great-granddaughter of Arthur Forbes, Earl of Granard. Henry William Paget, and his brothers William and Edward, received their education at Westminster as 'Town Boys.' William entered the Navy, was raised to the rank of post-captain February 7, 1793, held command of the 'Romney,' and died in 1794 from the wounds he had received in the capture of a French frigate 'La Sybille,' in the harbour of Myconi, in the Archipelago, June

17th of that year. He was Member of Parliament for Anglesea, and lies buried at Gibraltar. As we shall give hereafter a memoir of Edward Paget, it will be unnecessary to allude further to him at present. Another brother, Arthur, was admitted third into St. Peter's College, 1783, and was elected from Westminster in 1787 to Oxford University. He was born on January 15, 1771, and entered the diplomatic service, his first appointment being to St. Petersburg in 1791. In 1794 he was Minister at Berlin, and in that position earned the warm approbation of Lord Malmesbury. On September 2, 1796, he was appointed Secretary to the Embassy at Madrid; on May 22, 1798, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Elector of Bavaria and the Diet of Ratisbon; Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Sicily, March 15, 1800; and on June 9, 1801, he was appointed in a similar capacity to the Austrian Court at Vienna. On May 26, 1804, Arthur Paget was made a Knight of the Bath, and he held a seat at the Privy Council. On April 23, 1807, he was appointed Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, and on his return from that mission received an additional pension. He was elected to Parliament for Anglesea, in the place of his brother the naval captain, December 18, 1794, and was re-elected for the same in 1796 and in 1802. On February 20, 1795, he was gazetted to a majority in the Royal Anglesea Militia. He died at the age of 70 years, on June 26, 1841. It is said that when George IV., then Prince Regent, attended the Westminster Play, and visited the dormitory in College, he was much struck with the simplicity of the sleeping arrangements of the College boys, and exclaimed, 'You don't mean to tell me that Arthur Paget ever slept in one of those beds.'

To return to the subject of this notice. When Henry Paget left Westminster he proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford; but it may be remarked that his connection with his old School did not cease with his course of study there, for we find that he was a steward of the 'Westminster School Anniversaries' in the years 1791, 1810, 1817, 1828, 1848, and 1849, and he always took great interest in the welfare of the good old School.

In 1793 Lord Paget raised a regiment from among his father's tenantry—a corps which is now known as the 80th Regiment of the line—'the Staffordshire Volunteers.' When six hundred men had joined, he was gazetted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy, and on raising the strength to a thousand, the full colonelcy was offered him, which honour, however, he refused with becoming modesty, on the ground that he had not taken a part in any active service. In 1794 Lord Paget embarked with his regiment at Guernsey, and sailed to join the forces under the command of the Duke of York in Flanders. On arriving at the scene of operations he was attached to Sir Ralph Abercrombie's Division.

In this campaign Lord Paget greatly distinguished himself by his conspicuous bravery—especially in the storming of the lines at Turcoign, on May 17, 1794; and for the manner in which he handled Lord Cathcart's Brigade, which formed the rearguard during the retreat of the British army into Westphalia,

he earned universal admiration, but no more tangible reward. Returning home in 1795, he was transferred from the 80th Regiment of Foot to the command of the 7th Hussars; and at Ipswich and other places, where he was quartered, he devoted his attention to the improvement of cavalry manœuvres, with a happy result. Indeed, the system upon which our cavalry worked with so much distinction in the battles of the Peninsular War, and at the famous victory of Waterloo, was due to the active brain and untiring energy of the young Colonel of the 7th Hussars. In 1799, active service again called for Paget's presence in Holland, under the command of the Duke of York. At the battle of Alkmaar, on October 2, he was attached to the Russian General D'Essen, and his conduct was particularly alluded to in despatches in the following terms:—'Lord Paget distinguished himself by his usual spirit and ability in the command of the cavalry, and his lordship's exertions are deserving of every praise.' In the retreat, with which the campaign concluded, Lord Paget was entrusted with the honourable charge of protecting the rear. On one occasion, while performing this difficult duty, he placed himself at the head of a single squadron, vigorously charged General Leinou's force, which was seven times as great as his own, utterly defeated the enemy, recaptured some guns that had been taken from the British, and also took five of the enemy's cannon. For some years after the campaign in Holland, Lord Paget's duties were confined to the British shores; until 1802, when he was promoted to the rank of Major-General, he devoted himself to the furtherance towards perfection of the 7th Hussars. Having reached the next step in the ladder of promotion—that of Lieutenant-General—in 1808, he embarked in the command of two brigades of cavalry, composed of the 7th, 10th, 15th, and 18th Hussars, and proceeded to join Sir David Baird's command in Spain. He landed at Corunna, and marched with the army to effect a union with Sir John Moore, who was advancing upon Salamanca. The junction was made in the night—November 24—when that brave but unfortunate General decided to retreat before the overwhelming forces of the French. During the retreat, Lord Paget won considerable fame. At Sahagun, with 400 of the 15th Hussars he defeated 600 of the enemy's cavalry, and inflicted upon them a loss of 20 killed, and 13 officers and 150 men prisoners. At Mayorga he put himself at the head of two squadrons of the 10th Hussars, and charged and defeated a far superior number of Ney's troops, capturing more than a hundred prisoners. Perhaps his most brilliant feat of arms at this time was that when at Benevente with the 10th Hussars, a portion of the 3rd German Hussars, and detachments from other corps, he utterly defeated 600 of Napoleon's Light Cavalry—Imperial Guardsmen—who were commanded by General Lefebvre Desnouettes, one of the favourite Aides-de-Camp of the Emperor, who, it is said, was a witness of his Lieutenant's overthrow. Lord Paget lost about 50 killed and wounded; but the French losses amounted to 55 killed, the General, some officers, and 70 men taken prisoners, and about

so wounded. At the sad fight of Corunna the cavalry were not able to play a part, and in the embarkation the greater part of their horses were either drowned or obliged to be destroyed. In 1809 Lord Paget returned to England, and was selected to command a division in the disastrous expedition to Walcheren under Lord Chatham. There is no need to make further allusions here to that unfortunate episode in British military history.

In 1812, Lord Paget succeeded to the Earldom of Uxbridge on the death of his father. From 1806 to the time of his accession to the Peerage he had represented Milbourne Port in the Commons House of Parliament. When, in March 1815, Napoleon escaped from Elba, and the trumpet of war awoke the stillness of the peaceful air of politics, Lord Uxbridge was appointed to the command of the English and Belgian cavalry in the allied armies arrayed on the Flanders frontier under the Duke of Wellington. Her Majesty, I believe, has a picture painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence previous to Lord Uxbridge's departure for the seat of war, in which our eminent 'Old Westminster' is represented as Colonel of the 7th Hussars. In connection with that picture a curious anecdote is related. Having received orders to take up his command immediately, Lord Uxbridge told the artist one day that he would not be able to give him another sitting. Sir Thomas Lawrence expressed great regret at this announcement, and observed: 'I know I have given your lordship a great deal of trouble, but I hope, nevertheless, you will contrive to let me have one sitting more. All I now want is to finish the right leg; there is something about it I am not satisfied with, and an hour to-morrow would enable me to alter it.' Lord Uxbridge answered: 'I am sorry to say that is quite impossible; I must be off very early in the morning, so the leg must remain till I come back again.' His lordship's expectations were not to be literally realised, for 'his leg did not remain' till he came back—he left it on the famous field of Waterloo; and the missing leg in the picture had to be modelled from a cork substitute. Lord Anglesea was compelled to adopt. The peculiar circumstance narrated above was related to Mr. Ross, an artist, by Lord Anglesea himself.

The day previous to that on which the great battle was fought, Lord Uxbridge was employed with his cavalry in protecting the retrograde movement of the army from Quatre Bras to the Waterloo position, and he executed the duties assigned him in most brilliant and dashing manner. When the French cavalry fell upon the rearguard of the British troops who were marching through Gemappes, Lord Uxbridge made a determined resistance in order to allow the infantry to complete their extrication from the streets and cross the bridge in safety. He ordered the 7th Hussars and some of the 11th and 23rd Light Dragoons to charge the French Lancers, who were supported by a number of Cuirassiers. This attack was repulsed by the French, as also was a second charge. Then Lord Uxbridge put himself at the head of the heavier Life Guards, and with great vigour charged the enemy's cavalry, rolling them up and driving them in utter

disorder upon their supports. This gallant exploit enabled the British troops to take up their positions at Waterloo at leisure. We now come to that fierce contest on the 18th June. So long as 'Waterloo' remains a famous word in our military history so long will Lord Uxbridge and his cavalry be remembered and mentioned with enthusiasm for the part they played on the memorable field. As may well be conceived, and as is well known to all students of history, the cavalry were an important feature in the glorious fight, and it follows that their leader occupied one of the most conspicuous and important posts. Right worthily did Lord Uxbridge bear himself in that situation. Wherever the din of battle was greatest, wherever the combat was waged with fiercest energy, wherever death reigned most triumphant and wounds were inflicted with most frequency, there was Lord Uxbridge, leading a charge here, encouraging there, and always conspicuous by the ability of his strategy and by his personal valour. Just as his lordship was preparing to lead the cavalry in a final charge his horse was killed, and his groom, whom he had told to be ready with another charger in case of need at an available spot, having displayed the 'better part of valour'—discretion—and taken himself off to a more remote and safer part of the field, he had to mount a troop-horse which was caught and brought to him. Lord Uxbridge was famous for his beautiful and firm seat in the saddle; but on this occasion he had no time to alter the stirrup leathers to his own liking, but was obliged to ride several holes shorter than he was accustomed to, and to this accident he ascribed the severe wound he incurred, which he did not believe he would have received had he been riding his usual length in the stirrups. By one of the last cannon shots fired he was hit so badly in the right knee that immediate amputation of the leg was rendered necessary. The detached limb was buried in a garden opposite the village inn at Waterloo, where the operation was performed. To the tree above the grave a board was fixed with the following inscription:—

Here lies the Marquess of Anglesea's leg;
Pray for the rest of the body, I beg.

I should have mentioned Lord Uxbridge's charge at an earlier hour in the day. When D'Erlon's infantry attacked the division commanded by Picton with the bayonet, and were repulsed, Lord Uxbridge led one of the most brilliant and successful cavalry charges on record. Placing himself at the head of the 1st, 'The Royal' Dragoons, the 2nd Dragoons, 'Scots Greys,' and the 6th 'Enniskillen' Dragoons, he gave the order to advance. In beautiful order the brigade galloped up, and as they wheeled into line, with a front of some 1,300 men, executing the movement as if they were on an ordinary parade, cheer after cheer arose from the throats of those who witnessed the manœuvre, in honourable greeting of the gallant Paget and his brave followers. For a moment there was a pause to enable the men to steady themselves and their horses in their places. Then, with a loud cheer that almost hushed the jingling of accoutrements, the noblelin: horsemen swept like a whirlwind into the

French hosts and completely discomfited them. Lord Uxbridge's services at Waterloo were only secondary in importance to those of the Victor Chief—Wellington; and the Prince Regent promptly rewarded them by conferring on their performer the title of Marquess of Anglesea—the dignity dating from the 23rd June. The Knighthood of the Garter and several Foreign Orders were also awarded him. In 1819 he was promoted to the rank of General. Until 1827 Lord Anglesea chiefly devoted himself to the cultivation of his estates, to yachting, field sports, and other amusements and peaceful occupations. In 1827, the Duke of Wellington having become Commander-in-Chief, Lord Anglesea succeeded him in the office of Master-General of the Ordnance, with a seat in the Cabinet. On March 1, 1828, he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. This appointment was very popular with all parties in Ireland, especially among those who were Liberal in politics, for to that party Lord Anglesea belonged, and it was known that he was in favour of Catholic Emancipation. He entered Dublin on horseback, and not in the more formal and usual manner of making the State entrance in a carriage; and he made his exit in similar fashion, when, having been in office for twelve months, he had a misunderstanding with the Government and resigned the Viceroyalty. In December 1830, the Lord-Lieutenancy was again conferred on him; but for some reason or other, his second tenure of the post was not so popular as the previous reign had been; and, finding his health declining, in 1833 he sent in his resignation. Sir Robert Peel, when he came to power, made Lord Anglesea Master of the Ordnance for the second time. At the Coronation of George IV., Lord Anglesea rode by the side of the Champion of England in the procession in Westminster Hall, and attracted universal attention by his splendid horsemanship. Among the peculiarities for which he was famous, were his habit of wearing the same clothing in winter and summer, and his driving a curricule when that style of carriage had long been out of the fashion. Lord Anglesea was twice married: first, to Caroline Elizabeth, daughter of the 4th Earl of Jersey; and second, to Charlotte, daughter of the 1st Earl of Cadogan. He married his first wife on July 25, 1795; she died in 1835. By her he had eight children; and by his second wife six children. All his sons were sent to Westminster School, as also were other members of the Paget family.

In addition to the offices held by Lord Anglesea that have been already mentioned, we may name the following:—In 1842 he was appointed to the colonelcy of 'The Royal Horse Guards (Blue)'; and in 1846 he received the *Bâton* of a Field-Marshal. He was Lord-Lieutenant and Custos-Rotulorum of the Counties of Anglesea and Stafford; Constable of the Castle of Carnarvon; Ranger of Snowdon Forest; Vice-Admiral of North Wales and of the County of Carmarthen; and Captain of Cowes Castle. He was a brave, kind, honourable, and courteous gentleman—a nobleman not only as regards his rank, but in character; and his death, which occurred on April 29, 1854, closed a career honourable to himself and useful to his

Sovereign and his country—the career of a right worthy man and gallant soldier, of whom may be as truly written as was said of Bayard, that he was *sans peur et sans reproche*.

SKETCHES FROM INDIA.

No. I.

FAMINE PHASES.

THE following sketches have been sent to us through the kindness of a young 'O.W.' now in India, whom we beg here to thank for his contribution:—

'I think there is no doubt that of all the most dreary and uninteresting kinds of work out here, Famine Duty bears the palm; though district visiting in the rains is almost as bad. District life in the proper season is delightful, but then one lives in tents; in the rains one cannot do that. Few, if any, of your readers are aware, I dare say, that at the present time a famine exists in India. We all remember the great Indian famine of two or three years ago, and the horrible pictures that the illustrated papers used to give us week after week—pictures so ghastly that it seemed hard and almost impossible to believe that they could be true to life. We all know that there is no such famine now, but those who think that none exists whatever are mistaken. At the present time there is a famine in the Sholapur districts, and there I, in company with several others, was sent to superintend Relief Camps placed at various towns.

'Now Sholapur is in the Deccan, and to the best of my belief there is no famine elsewhere; as my experience of Famine is confined to the Deccan, the land of the wily Mahratta, who

For ways that are dark, and for tricks that are *mean*,

is somewhat peculiar.

'I have said Famine Duty is uninteresting and dreary; I might even go further, and say that it is dirty work. To mix with, go cheek and jowl with, dirty, unwashed, half-starved, less than half-clothed beggars, is not clean or nice work. Thanks to a thoughtful and kind Government, and an indefatigable Governor, every person starving or in want of food that likes to come, gets twice a day a good meal; and considering that they are all of the beggar class, and never in their lives got such good food as is now provided for them, they ought to be thankful. When I first saw a Relief Camp in Sholapur, I own I was shocked. I felt deeply for the poor starving creatures. I saw at once that the pictures in the papers at home had been true to the life. See there that poor boy, without clothing, with no covering for his head, with just, and only just, sufficient on him for decency. See his sunken eyes, protruding cheek bones, legs no thicker than sticks, and barely able to sustain his body, which is all but skin and bone. Shoulder blades and ribs showing, oh! so clearly. In fact little better than a living skeleton. See, too, that wretched woman, with matted hair and staring eyes, just as scantily clothed, almost as thin, and carrying in her arms a baby but a few months old. Can you suppose that

it will live? Dare you hope that it will? But it is not two or three only, it is four or five thousand emaciated, half-starved, dirty, unclothed people. It was with a shudder that I reflected that these were to be my companions for the next two or three months, and, bad as I had quite expected Famine duty would be, I own I had not expected this. But just as a surgeon has to steel his nerves for an amputation, and seems callous to suffering, so in a few days I too became callous, partly because I got used to seeing them twice a day, but chiefly because that on better acquaintance I got an insight into their character. Craftiness and deceit, greediness and ingratitude, are a good many vices to be found in one person, and yet among the two thousand men and women that I had to deal with, there was scarcely one that could not and did not lay claim to each and all of these vices in his own person.

“Lo, the poor Indian, whose untutored mind”—writes Pope, and there perhaps is the excuse for these people. Craftiness was every day and every meal apparent. For on receiving their dole—two large pieces of bread and a bowl of thick soup—they would get up, slink away to the end of another line, *sit upon* their food and ask for more; and by vehemently declaring, as they invariably did, that they had received none, their deceit appeared. Greediness—well, perhaps you will say this was evident in the conduct which I have just mentioned. Yes, and not only in that way, but if anyone chanced to find a piece chipped out of his bread, he would whine and declare that he was being cheated of his share, and was getting less than his neighbour. As for ingratitude, I think every native, be he Guzerati or Mahratti, is ungrateful, so I was not in the least surprised to find the people surprisingly so. They would whine for clothing, and clothes would be distributed, until one day one was discovered selling hers for money, so what can you do? I took to distributing the bread myself, but in addition to learning that they had scruples (fancy a beggar having scruples!) about its being touched by an European, I found that they got jumping up when my back was turned, and one must have them sitting in long long lines to be able to give each his share. I now walk about, whip in hand, to keep them in order, never using it except in cases of deceit.

‘O.W.’

FIELDS.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. OLD HARROVIANS.

THIS match was played on Saturday, November 1, and resulted in an easy victory for us by 5-0. We had the best of the game from the commencement, and although they played hard till the last moment, they never could get on equal terms with us. It is fair to mention that our back play in this match left but little to be desired. Our goals were kicked by Benbow (2), Whitehead, Janson, and Burridge; R. de C. Welch played well for them, and so did Lewis, a Cambridge blue.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow (captain), W. F. G. Sandwith (goals); A. C. Whitehead (half-back), F. W. Janson, H. N. Robson (backs); W. A. Burridge, F. G. Clarke (backs). R. C. Batley (half back); W. Stephenson, C. F. Ingram, H. W. De Sausmarez.

OLD HARROVIANS.

R. D. C. Welch (captain), J. B. Howell (half-backs); J. H. Stirling, J. A. De Morgan (backs); G. H. T. Phillips, J. C. E. Branson, F. Richardson, A. H. Davidson, K. MacLaren, A. Chater, J. Lewis.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. SOUTH NORWOOD.

THIS match was played on November 5. The result was most unsatisfactory, owing to the want of an efficient umpire. They kicked two goals, one of which was palpably offside; while Squire kicked one for us. The backs were most disappointing, after their good form v. Harrovians. Bailey, for them, was magnificent, and Coles also was very good.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow (captain), W. F. G. Sandwith (goals); A. C. Whitehead (half-back); F. W. Janson, H. N. Robson (backs); W. A. Burridge, A. A. Sikes, W. Stephenson, R. T. Squire, F. G. Clarke (back); R. C. Batley (half-back).

SOUTH NORWOOD.

C. E. Leeds (captain, back); N. C. Bailey (half-back); G. R. Fleet, H. G. Clarke, A. Pitman (back); H. H. Coles (half-back); J. H. Bennett, G. Prall, W. G. Knight, W. G. Blard, W. M. Robertson.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. GITANOS.

THE Gitanos turned up fairly strong on Saturday, November 8. A few minutes after the ball was started, owing to the culpable negligence of one of our backs, Goodhart was able to score a goal for them. The game then became very fast, and after one or two close shots Sikes was able to equalise matters before half-time. After changing ends they began to press us considerably, but our condition told its tale in the first half-hour; Janson, Benbow, and Squire made run after run, and eventually the first two named were again able to lower the Gitanos colours. For them the Hon. A. Lyttleton, Goodhart, and Cattley were very good.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow (captain), W. F. G. Sandwith (goals), A. C. Whitehead (half-back), F. W. Janson, H. N. Robson (back), W. A. Burridge, F. G. Clarke (back), W. A. Batley (half-back), R. T. Squire, W. Stephenson, A. A. Sikes.

GITANOS.

W. Carr, C. Crutchley, Hon. A. Lyttleton, J. E. Brand, G. M. Nugee, W. N. Tayloe (half-back), F. W. Govette, G. T. Chance, A. Radcliffe, A. C. Cattley, S. H. Goodhart (captain).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. CASUALS.

ON Wednesday, November 12, the Casuals showed up with the strongest Eleven we have seen this year, and aided by a strong wind scored two goals before half-time. On changing ends, however, the aspect of the game altered somewhat, but no further advantage was gained on either side. Robson and Whitehead were especially good behind, and several of the forwards did good service, but there is not half enough 'passing,' the sides being often great offenders in this way.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow (captain), W. F. G. Sandwith (goals), A. C. Whitehead (half-back), F. W. Janson, H. N. Robson (back), W. A. Burrridge, F. G. Clarke (back), R. C. Batley (half-back), R. T. Squire, W. Stephenson, A. A. Sikes.

CASUALS.

G. R. Fleet, J. Brockbank, A. P. Wells, F. L. Rawson, E. C. Bambridge, G. R. Bastard, B. King (half-back), A. J. Stanley, N. C. Bailey (half-back), H. A. Swepstone (goals), A. N. Other (back).

In this match several played under assumed names, a habit much to be censured, against schools especially, as it gives a false impression of the real strength of the team.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. CLAPHAM ROVERS.

THIS match was played on Saturday, November 15. The ground was hard frozen, which was greatly against us, and our play never showed to worse advantage. The Clapham Rovers were by no means a powerful team, yet they managed to beat us by two goals to none. It is to be hoped that ere long the Eleven will play more together than they did in this match, as after half-time we were completely penned. Sandwith kept goals magnificently, while Whitehead and Robson were at times brilliant behind.

For them Rumball and Rawson played best.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow, W. F. G. Sandwith (goals), A. C. Whitehead (half-back), F. W. Janson, H. N. Robson (back), W. A. Burrridge, F. G. Clarke (back), R. C. Batley (half-back), R. T. Squire, A. A. Sikes, W. Stephenson.

CLAPHAM ROVERS.

Ogilvie (captain), Carter (back), C. C. Tayloe, W. N. Tayloe (half-back), A. J. Stanley, Keith-Falconer, Payne, Rawson, Rumball, Lloyd, Jones.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. WANDERERS.

PLAYED at Vincent Square on Wednesday, November 19. We won the toss and elected to play with the wind; the game was very fast at first, as the ground was in good order, but although we had somewhat the best of it, we were unable to score. After half-time the forwards fell to pieces, and there was but little crossing, and about a quarter of an hour before time, Hemsley (O.W.), after a good run down

the side shot the ball against the post and it bounded through. All our efforts afterwards were unavailing, and so it was again our misfortune to be defeated. For the Wanderers, Stanley, Rawson (O.W.), and Denton were conspicuous, while for the School the two centres only worked hard throughout, the sides were extremely slack, while Robson and Whitehead were very good behind, and Sandwith, as usual, greatly distinguished himself.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow (captain); W. F. G. Sandwith (goals); A. C. Whitehead (half-back); F. W. Janson, H. N. Robson (back); W. A. Burrridge, F. G. Clarke (back); R. C. Batley (half-back); R. T. Squire, A. A. Sikes, W. Stephenson.

WANDERERS.

C. A. Denton (captain), A. J. Stanley (half-back); F. L. Rawson (half-back), T. B. Hughes, T. N. Tynedale, W. J. Maynard, M. Wylie, A. M. Hemsley, J. Brockbank, A. H. Stratford, E. B. Denton (goals).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. OLD CARTHUSIANS.

THIS was played on Saturday, November 22, at Vincent Square, and though the ground was covered with snow most of our opponents turned up, and with a couple of substitutes play commenced at 3 P.M. In about ten minutes they secured a goal, but Burrridge soon equalised matters, and just before half-time Rawson added another to their score. Our condition now told, and Benbow ran up three times, each attempt being successful. After an hour's play we remained victors by four goals to two. For Old Carthusians Keith-Falconer, Wake, and Jenner played best, with the exception perhaps of our substitute, G. Stephenson, who was excellent throughout.

For us Sikes was most energetic, and Whitehead worked hard behind without a partner. We were deprived of the services of Janson and Batley.

WESTMINSTER.

H. C. Benbow, W. F. G. Sandwith (goals); A. C. Whitehead (half-back); H. N. Robson (back); W. A. Burrridge, F. G. Clarke (back); R. T. Squire, A. A. Sikes, C. Ingram, W. Stephenson.

OLD CARTHUSIANS.

J. Wake (captain); W. K. W. Jenner, C. Keith-Falconer, F. L. Rawson, S. Mitchell, F. W. Bain, and G. Stephenson (substitutes); S. Trumpeter (goals); E. Lloyd, F. T. Synge.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE motion before the House on Thursday, October 30, was 'That the present system of School Boards is impolitic.'

A. A. Sikes (mover) said he wished to deal with the working of the system in the country rather than in towns. The objections against the School Board

system were: (i.) That it was unnecessary; (ii.) that it failed in its object, viz. bringing under its operation all stray children; (iii.) that it was a needless expense; (iv.) that it neglected religious teaching; (v.) the loss of voluntary labour caused by the fact that only paid teachers might be employed in Board Schools; (vi.) the fact that the officers appointed by the Boards to enforce the attendance of the children often were in league with the parents to help them to evade that very object.

In the country the system was disadvantageous and unnecessary; in towns it was unnecessary, but possibly advantageous.

The higher education the Board Schools professed to give was in his opinion likely to make the lower orders discontented with their position, a result which was by no means to be desired.

H. W. De Sausmarez (seconder) cited examples of the harm which the system had done in districts where it had been expected to produce good results. In Birmingham the districts where the system was established were little better than pagan. He condemned the little heed paid to religion and the extremely elaborate and expensive buildings which were being erected. The failure of the system was proved by the fact that it was about to be altered.

H. C. Benbow (opposer) maintained that, while in the country the voluntary system might work well enough, in towns the Board system was absolutely necessary to secure the education of the numberless little street arabs &c.

It was necessary to do away with religious teaching, as it was impossible to find any one line of religious views which would satisfy the scruples of the parents. The education offered them was not too good for them; if they were willing to learn, let them do so. Instead of the buildings being too large, they were not large enough to meet the growing population.

A. A. Sikes argued that universal education promoted Socialism, and that genius had equal opportunities in voluntary schools.

F. Bain approved of the School Board system, but thought that playgrounds might be added to the schools with advantage.

The House then divided, when there were—

Ayes	10
Noes	10

The President gave the casting vote in favour of the motion, which was accordingly carried.

On November 6 the debate was on Vivisection. J. B. Hodge moved, 'That Vivisection be prohibited by law as Unjust and Inhuman.' He said that the anodynes used were in many cases inefficacious: they only prevented the expression of pain. Experiments often terminate fatally. The practice was most cruel, inhuman, barbarous, and unjust.

E. C. Bedford seconded the motion. Vivisection had lately increased to such an extent that the practice of it was too often an abuse. Whereas it was only pursued twelve years ago by men of experience, it was

now to the medical student a source of cruel experiments. Many men make science an excuse for indulging their curiosity by the most horrible of experiments.

H. W. De Sausmarez (opposer) defended Vivisection from an utilitarian point of view. He considered the enormous gain resulting to science would more than balance the few cases of fatality and the falsely urged plea of humanity. The rapid growth of Vivisection during late years was one of the most convincing arguments in its favour. The practice was now so widely spread that it would be almost impossible to stop it; and the more general Vivisection becomes the less pain will be inflicted on its victims.

F. Bain advocated a modified practice of Vivisection.

J. Langhorne moved as an amendment, that the motion should stand 'That Vivisection may be inhuman, but is necessary.'

H. R. James then moved that the words 'except in exceptional cases' should be added to the motion.

The President contended that Vivisection was both humane and legal. He deprecated the dogmatic opinions of clergymen, and quoted Macaulay to show what a lamentable exhibition the British public made of itself in a fit of morality and humanity.

The amendments were objected to, and subsequently withdrawn; and when the House divided shortly afterwards the tellers reported—

Ayes	9
Noes	14
Majority against the motion	<u>5</u>

The motion was accordingly lost.

The motion on Thursday, November 20, was, 'That the active foreign policy of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet has borne prompt and profitable fruit for the peace of the world; and, although it has been most uncompromisingly attacked, is after all a diplomatic work of a most successful character.'

H. N. Robson (mover) said the Russians had had designs on Turkey ever since 1689. Their policy was one of self-aggrandisement. The Pan-Slavonic sentiment was an illustration of this. There were ninety millions of Slavs in Europe, and to form all these under one empire—which was the object of the sentiment—meant an enormous annexation of territory. Russia's advance on Turkey was not made only to humanise, it was made to acquire territory. The Liberals, however, had contended that the Russians were going to liberate their brother Bulgars. But the brother Bulgars did not apparently stand in urgent need of liberation; they did not rise *en masse* to co-operate with the humanising Muscov. The so-called Bulgarian atrocities were in a way traceable to Russian influence. General Ignatieff was at the time in Constantinople. The Sultan Abdul Aziz was a weak and impotent monarch. Abdul, acting on Ignatieff's advice, sent irregulars to put down the Bulgarian insurrections. The atrocities were the result. Soon after this Mr. Gladstone published his pamphlet, which did infinite harm to the Government.

In that unpatriotic publication, the idea of Russian influence in the Bulgarian massacres was scouted, and it was maintained that the Turks ought to be driven out of Europe. Who were to take their place? The Russians of course. The Christians, who were too few to form a polity of their own, would gravitate towards St. Petersburg. With regard to the Constantinople Conference, its failure was due to the obstinacy manifested by the Turk. The English Government had been too conciliatory.

In the Servian war, which had been called 'the war by Secret Societies against Turkey,' Russian influence was distinctly traceable. The Servians were unwilling to fight till Russia provided them with arms and money. When the Russo-Turkish war was no longer avoidable, Lord Beaconsfield's main object was to localise the war, and protect our interests by maintaining the safety of Constantinople and Gallipoli—an end which was only gained by the bold front shown by Her Majesty's Government. Coming to the Vote of Credit, the speaker defended it as necessary on three grounds: (i.) the delay on Russia's part in concluding the preliminaries of the armistice; (ii.) the doubt about Russia's intentions; (iii.) the secrecy of the Russian movements. By the treaty of San Stefano, Bulgaria was to be autonomous, under Christian government, and its geographical position was to be such that it should divide the Turkish territory into two portions. An army of 50,000 Russians was to remain in Bulgaria till the stipulations were carried out. According to this the Russians might remain just as long as they liked, and would be unpleasantly close to Constantinople. England objected to this treaty, and the result, by Austria's intervention, was the Berlin Conference. Russia declined to submit the San Stefano treaty to the Conference. England insisted. Lord Derby and Earl Carnarvon resigned. The Cabinet was now unanimous. Russia was forced to acquiesce, and the Congress was held.

Lord Salisbury in his despatch refused to countenance the preponderance of Russian influence in Bulgaria, and the proposed division of the Turkish Empire, which would lead to maladministration and revolt.

The most important items in the Berlin Treaty connected with Europe were, that Austria got Bosnia and Herzegovina; that the rights of the Powers regarding the Straits were to be respected; that Bulgaria was to be bounded on the south by the Balkans, and was to be divided into two portions; that the Ægean littoral was to remain in the possession of the Porte, and that the Turks should have the right to garrison the forts on the Balkans if they chose. In order to prevent any misconception in Asia of the firmness of England, and in order to protect our interests, the Anglo-Turkish Convention was formed. We took Cyprus, to be on the scene if Russia should attempt a march from Armenia towards India. The Liberals objected that in spite of the important result obtained by the Berlin Treaty the Eastern Question was as far as ever from solution. This was true; but as long as Russia and Turkey existed the Eastern Question would, in all human probability, never be solved. The firmness of England made Austria firm;

Germany was encouraged to separate herself from Russia, and the Austro-Germanic alliance was formed. So that if Russia attempted to march on Constantinople she would find her way barred by England, Austria, and Germany. The policy adopted by Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet—that of strict neutrality—the only one possible under the circumstances, was only one compatible with the interests of England's trade and her sense of honour and justice.

(At this point the debate was adjourned till next day.)

On Friday the House assembled punctually. Robson, continuing his speech, went on to show that the Government were perfectly justified in discrediting Russia's intentions, and that those points in Lord Salisbury's despatch which were not carried out were fully made up for by the Anglo-Turkish Convention. The assumption of the protectorate of Turkey in Asia balanced Russia's possession of Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum. The reforms in Turkey, which were so often talked about as a complete failure, were, on the contrary, in process of accomplishment. The task was a peculiarly difficult one. Midhat Pacha had attempted reform in Asia Minor, but was considerably thwarted by the malign influence brought to bear against him. However, the necessity of these reforms was being strongly insisted on by the Government, in spite of the adverse prognostications of the Liberals, who had all along acted in a grossly inconsistent manner. In 1854 the Liberals clamoured for the independence of the Porte; in 1876 they had been equally eager for its suppression. Their efforts had failed most deservedly, but at the same time their unpatriotic behaviour had considerably hampered the action of Her Majesty's Ministers. Lord Beaconsfield's policy was profitable, because it had enabled England to escape the horrors of war by assuming a bold course of action at a critical moment.

F. C. Ryde (seconder) rose to defend the Afghan war. The Afghan war was mainly owing to the Russian advances in Asia. In 1868, when these advances first assumed a serious character, Mr. Gladstone was in office, but no notice was taken of the matter. When, in 1872, a Russian expedition was sent to Khiva to punish some outrages which had been committed, Count Schouvaloff was sent to London to allay the uneasiness to which the expedition had given rise. He said the Czar had given strict orders that Khiva was not to be taken. Khiva was taken, but given up again. A little later, when it revolted, it was taken and held. Mr. Gladstone was in office at the time, but no notice was taken of what had been going on in Asia.

When, however, soon afterwards, Mr. Disraeli assumed the management of affairs, explanations were demanded from Russia. An unsatisfactory answer was received. This produced in Turkestan a belief that Russia was superior to England, owing to which, a little later, Russia's envoys were received at Cabul, whereas England's were refused. This insult made war necessary. The chief advantage which England gained was the scientific frontier. The war was undertaken for the safety of India, so Lord Beaconsfield was quite right in making India pay.

S. Bere (opposer) stigmatised Lord Beaconsfield's policy as swaggering and braggart. England could have prevented the Russo-Turkish war. Terms were sent to London, but they were not brought before the House of Commons, nor sent to Constantinople. The scientific frontier was a failure. The proper frontier for the north-west of India was the Indus, not the mountains. Between the Indus and the mountains lay a great desert which would render the transport of provisions &c. equally difficult to an army defending the mountain passes from the south, or advancing from them to the Indus. No mention of the Zulu war had been made by either the mover or opposer. They were apparently ashamed of it. It was entirely unjustifiable. It had been professedly undertaken for the sake of trade and the promotion of Christianity, but after the Zulus had been subjugated and their land cut up into thirteen divisions, merchants and missionaries had been excluded from one at least of those divisions. Cyprus was a mistake. There was no harbour in, and no profit from, the island. A great deal of money had been wasted in bringing the troops from India. They had been brought without the consent of the House of Commons, and contrary to Act of Parliament, and cost £153 per man. It was absurd to suppose that Austria, whose population was three-quarters Slavs, would go to war with Russia. Comparing Sir S. Northcote's finances with those of Mr. Gladstone, the latter's showed, at the expiration of his office, a surplus of five millions, whereas next April, when Sir S. Northcote would have to make up his accounts, he would, in all probability, have a deficit of about twenty millions.

H. C. Benbow said the policy of Government was only half and half. He accused Lord Beaconsfield of inconsistency in his opinions about the Turk. The Afghan war was unjustifiable; we ought to have gone to war with Russia, not with Russia's tool, Afghanistan. Trade was not reviving; only chemicals were.

The President did not consider Lord Beaconsfield's policy had been conducive to the peace of the world. He would rather say to the war of the world. In the Eastern difficulty it was our bold front that secured us peace. Sending troops to Malta was not a step to secure the peace of the world. The Afghan war was necessary, but not peaceable. The scientific frontier was not obtained. The Zulu war was an unfortunate war, an unhappy war, an inevitable war, but not a profitable war nor a peaceable war. He would move, as an amendment, 'That though the policy of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet is a triumph of diplomatic skill, it cannot be said to have borne prompt and profitable fruit for the peace of the world;' and after the division on the motion he would ask the House to divide on his amendment.

H. R. James said that Lord Beaconsfield's policy did ultimately conduce to the peace of the world. The Afghan war was necessary to prevent Russia from carrying on a greater and a fanatical war against us and India. The Zulu war was undertaken to prevent a greater evil. The Zulus were a warlike tribe, and threatened at any time complete destruction to our Colonies in South Africa.

The House divided—

Ayes.....	29
Noes	5

The motion was therefore carried. The amendment was negatived.

School Notes.

The play this year, as most of our readers are by this time probably aware, is the *Trinummus* of Plautus, which will be performed, as usual, in College Dormitory, on the nights of the 11th, 16th, and 18th of this month. The special play number of *The Elizabethan* will be published early in January.

The Mure Scholarship has been awarded to H. R. James, Q.S. The number of candidates was this year much smaller than usual. This is probably to be accounted for by the fact that, owing to the extent of the prepared subjects in History and Divinity which are taken up for examination, no one will enter for the Scholarship who does not consider that he has a reasonable chance of obtaining some reward for his labours. The result of this year's examination was, we believe, considered a certainty, and this may account for the small number of those who strove for the barren honour of a *proxime accessit*. It is, however, only fair to mention the fact that one of the most promising candidates left early in the year.

The Dean's Greek Testament Prize has been awarded to R. S. Owen, Q.S. The second Prize fell to W. A. Peck, Q.S., and F. E. Lewin, Q.S. *Æq. Accesserunt* H. R. James, Q.S., C. W. R. Tepper, Q.S., J. B. Hodge. The subjects were the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Acts of the Apostles, chaps. i.-xiv. It is gratifying to learn that the competition was pronounced to be closer than usual, and the work to be above the average.

Any O.W.'s who wish to play in the O.W. match at Vincent Square, on December 19—the day after the third play night—are requested to send in their names without delay to H. D. S. Vidal, 3 Union Place, Truro, or to H. C. Benbow, St. Peter's College, Westminster.

We were glad to notice a slight improvement in the singing of the choir on the occasion of the School service on All Saints' Day. This improvement is not attributable to the animadversions contained in the November number of *The Elizabethan*, which was not published till later in the day, but to a spontaneous effort on the part of the choir, which we hope to see continued for the future.

With respect to the regilding of the Captains' Tablets in Dormitory, we find that we were mistaken last month in announcing that the money was at once forthcoming; we should have said that the Old Westminster who suggested the regilding, has offered to

defray the expense of regilding one tablet, if the rest of the tablets can be renewed at the same time. It may be as well to state that the expense of regilding each tablet will be £5, and that there are six tablets in all : so that the whole sum required will amount to about £30.

We noticed in our last obituary the death of Mr. W. Jerrold Dixon on October 20. The following is from *The Theatre* of November: 'The news of the death of Mr. Jerrold Dixon, or, as he chose to be called, Gerald Dixon, will cause widespread regret. The son of Mr. Hepworth Dixon, he was educated at Westminster, and in 1870 was called to the Bar. His sympathies, however, were with literature rather than law. . . . In the winter of 1866-7, when the dreadful ice accident occurred in the Regent's Park, Mr. Dixon, at the imminent risk of his own life, plunged into the water and rescued a person from drowning, and the chill he suffered in consequence was the cause of the slight lameness he afterwards showed. His loss will be keenly felt at the Savage Club, of which he was for some time honorary secretary.'

Our Contemporaries.

We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of *The Cambridge Review* (4), *The Carthusian*, *The Cinque Port*, *The Eastbournian*, *The Felstedian*, *The Glenalmond Chronicle*, *The Harrovian*, *The Magdalen College School Journal*, *The Malvernian* (2), *The Marlburian* (2), *The Meteor*, *The Newtonian*, *Our School Times*, *The Reading School Magazine*, *The Rossallian*, *The Salopian*, *The Tonbridgian*, *The Ulula*, *The Welling-tonian*, and *The Wykehamist*.

The usual programme of school news in *The Carthusian* is varied to advantage by the insertion of some really good lines on 'The Last Censures.' The acrostic editor seems to be used up: the last 'double' was transparent enough, and this time there is none at all.

The greater part of the *The Cinque Port* is occupied with descriptions of tourists' experiences, which chiefly interest the writers thereof. We come across a full-page illustration of their Fives Court; the drawing and the original seem to be of a primitive kind. At the end of this number we find a notice to the effect that, owing to want of space, several cricket matches and averages are unavoidably held over. Well, were we the *conductors* of the paper—as they are termed—we should have obviated the difficulty in a very simple way. We think we could have survived the omission of the last page or two, the farrago of second-hand jokes entitled 'Omnibus.'

The Eastbournian is weak, as usual. We gather from the correspondence that the lower games are in the habit of playing football without goal posts. We wonder if they consider stumps at cricket unnecessary.

We thoroughly agree with *The Glenalmond Chronicle* in its opinion that School magazines should be devoted to 'local topics.' The proper study of a School paper is the School undoubtedly. A spirit of patriotism, a kind of pride in their porridge and their 'vitrified Pictish fort' asserts itself in the leaders, while a fancied project for refurbishing 'small study' arouses a storm of remonstrance from some Tory correspondents.

The Harrovian proves very carefully that fagging is advantageous—a to us indisputable fact; and in another on 'Football Chaff' is at great pains to distinguish between the 'chaff'

of exhortation, and the 'chaff' of approbation. There seems to exist peculiar to Harrow a phenomenon known as the 'football claqueur,' whose aim in life apparently is to brave all weathers in order to supply his champions with rounds of lemon and applause, which, by the way, generally fall to the other side. Here are one or two Harrow Nursery Rhymes:—

- 'Sing a song of sixpence; look at yonder fag,
With six of gravy cutlets in a paper bag;
When the bag was opened, of gravy there was none,
For down the bearer's trousers it had gently run.'
- 'There was a little man who had a great "run up,"
And he ran as hard as ever he could "peg,"
Till the adversaries' "back"
Gave him such a "hack,"
Which caught him on the shin bone of the leg.'

The Magdalen College School Journal is a new acquaintance of ours. We notice a debate on Capt. Carey, arriving at the same conclusion that we did. We hope he feels gratified. 'This day shall better his condition.' Some reminiscences—of what does not appear—with cricket and football news, complete the number.

The article on Duck-shooting (?) in the *The Malvernian*, is perhaps based on the 'bow-wow' and 'pooh-pooh' theory of language, being for the most part a series of interjections. They only feel competent to criticise four out of thirty contemporaries. We are glad to see the remarks in our last number about advertisements find support in the correspondence column. We may remind the editor that Lawn Tennis in its infancy was called *Σφαίριστικον*.

The Marlburian for October is rather stiff reading. The only bit of poetry is scarcely successful—in which, for instance, a traveller somewhat tamely remarks to an oak tree, 'Canst thou fathom my own, own thoughts?' In the November issue the theory of Nicknames is well treated, but the legend of the four-and-twenty tailors ought to be relegated to the nursery.

The Meteor's curiosity is excited by the symbols T.B.B. and Q.S.S. in *The Elizabethan*. The cricket match to which it refers was between the *Town Boys* and *Queen's Scholars*. The November number seems anxious to rival *Boxiana*, or *The Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*, publishing, as it does, an article headed 'The Great Fight, and the Phantom Funeral.'

There is nothing startling in *The Newtonian*. Some school gossip, given in the paragraphic style familiar to the readers of *The World and Truth*, is prefaced by the singular expression, 'Under the Clock.'

Our School Times is far more adapted to 'children of a larger growth' than to schoolboys, with its leaders on Conscience, and the Intermediate Examinations (the great event at Foyle College, it would seem) and its chess and mathematical columns.

The Reading School Magazine is new to us. The editorial calls attention to the new feature in their paper—the presence of advertisements—and hopes that 'boys will reciprocate the kindness of those firms who have consented to advertise in our columns' (!)—on the principle that one good turn deserves another, we suppose. The patriotism of the writer of 'Reminiscences of Our Old School' most certainly exceeds his knowledge of his mother tongue. A cursory glance is rewarded with the following *morceaux*: 'to make some notice of a person'; 'Laud became bishop of Canterbury itself'; 'an ordnance was passed by Lords and Commons'; 'abbott' and 'it's' for 'abbot' and 'its,' while the diphthongs 'ae' and 'oe' are freely and frequently interchanged.

Half of *The Rossallian*—a rather liberal allowance—is devoted to John Keats; we mean to memoirs of him. We should think twice before printing such phrases as 'The trembling guardian of the Batsonian sticks,' i.e. goalkeeper in ordinary English. This, with sundry allusions to Hector and Falernian wine (misprinted), makes us wonder how much the description cost a line, to use a common metaphor.

The Editorial in *The Salopian* is written very much à la Victor Hugo; we mean with a spasmodic full stop after (say) every other word. So much for the style. As regards the sense, we know from experience what most 'Editorials' are like—a string of commonplaces prefacing the inevitable and piteous appeal for support. This particular specimen of the editorial art wanders on from birthday greetings (à propos of nothing) to grave-digging (ditto, ditto), from Tennyson's 'Brook' to the Editor's Table, with no apparent connection. By far the most interesting piece in the paper is the account of a tour in Wales.

The Tonbridgian for November is 'indifferent good.' An odd translation is introduced into an article on 'Slang': βῆ δαίμονι ἄλως—'he went off like the d—l.'

The Ulula contains some fairly readable matter, which is certainly necessary to counteract the depressing effect of four pages full of names of fellows who have passed some examinations.

Mr. Gladstone's address forms the *pièce de resistance* of *The Wellingtonian*. It certainly appeared some days before in the *Daily News*, but it is well worth reprinting. One is apt to be amused at the idea of a letter being shorter than its signature; such, indeed, is almost the case when we see two signed respectively ὀφθρο. κ.τ.λ. and Argentiexteri, &c. &c. (For further particulars *vide* Greek and Latin Dictionaries.)

The Wykehamist is noticeable for a good translation of part of *Æneid VI.*—The Descent of *Æneas*.

FROM OUR 'OXFORD' CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I hope this letter will reach you without difficulty, but I feel diffident as to the address; for rumours of such monstrous changes are reaching us—more hideous from their very vagueness—that it seems folly to suppose that the old name can have survived amidst such general ruin. All O.W.'s are unanimous in foretelling dreadful results from the 'new system'; everyone agrees that there is 'no knowing where it will end.' The absence of any certain knowledge of what has happened only gives wider scope for gloomy prognostications as to what will happen. But somehow—to the universal astonishment—the School still lives, and the external world—to the evident chagrin of those O.W.'s whose indignation has been loudly expressed—is not visibly affected. Yes, Oxford goes on much as it did before, and Old Westminsters seem still able to take their part in the general occupations. In the schools it is a long way to look back to the last class list. Westminsters plumped with startling unanimity for second classes. On the river the fours have been the only event of public interest this term. There J. H. Wilston rowed 3 in the so-nearly victorious Ch. Ch. boat. At the Parks, for the first time I believe, a regular Old Westminster team has appeared and made a most successful *début* by, after a most exciting game, beating the Old Wykehamists by two goals, one of which was kicked in the last minute to one. The Old Wykehamists have since beaten Old Etonians, so that our victory was no inglorious one. There is some talk of forming a regular Old Westminster football club, with colours pink and white, in imitation of the Cantabs. I shall be very glad to see something more than mere talk on the subject. In the 'Varsity team we have only one regular player, E. Waddington, while W. C. Aston not unfrequently joins him and appears to stand as good a chance of his shirt as any forward up here. We have two other shirts up; but neither are playing this year, except occasionally for their colleges.

On November 1, the annual Westminster breakfast came off in Ch. Ch., when there were about 30 present. We number altogether between 40 and 50 O.W.'s now in residence, a very fair contingent indeed. The following are the names of the Freshmen who have turned up from Westminster this term: E. V. Eddis, G. Dale, H. B. Cox, T. B. Strong, and C. V. Wilks to Ch. Ch., F. Ransom to St. Mary's Hall, H. Lowry unattached, and F. E. Cobby to Keble. As far as one can judge from those who are up here you are likely to have a

large inundation of young O.W.'s at the Play this year. In the last three years there has only been one Play and a third, so you can excuse a little more eagerness than usual this year, when there appears every prospect of three real whole nights.

The Westminster and Charterhouse Club is flourishing; certain slight volcanic disturbances, which threatened the harmony of the society at the beginning of this term, have subsided and left the atmosphere clear. *Amantium ira amoris integratio est*; and really it seems to me that it could not but be a serious thing for the good feeling that exists between the two schools if that club, which was formed professedly with the object of cementing that good feeling, was suddenly and, as would be inevitable, in a spirit of rancour dissolved. As it is, the club numbers 66 members, of whom, however, only 26 are Westminsters—*hinc ille lacryme*: it is changing its rooms at the end of this term, crossing over to the other side of and shifting lower down the High. The situation may not be quite so desirable, but the rooms themselves are better, being really very handsome and comfortable, while the present rooms are—well, not. The new rooms were formerly occupied by the Cheltenham Club, which only enjoyed—*absit omen*—a career of a few months.

O. P. Q.

FROM OUR 'CAMBRIDGE' CORRESPONDENT.

Cambridge, November 1, 1879.

SOME months have passed since I have been able to send any news to *The Elizabethan*; for while at Westminster the summer months are the busiest and most lively time of the year, at Cambridge everything is deserted, and undergrads, bachelors, and dons are scattered far and wide. This term the usual number of exhibitors have come up, and several other Westminsters have matriculated.

First, in the literary world—for the exercise of the body should give place to that of the mind—we have to announce the appearance of *The Cambridge Review*, which is of particular interest to all Westminsters, as E. V. Arnold is one of the editors. It is published weekly, and three numbers have been now placed before the public. Hitherto it has been a complete success, and we have no doubt the 'undergraduate' at Cambridge is already shaking in his shoes. Several O.W.'s are expecting their tripos shortly. In the mathematical we may trust to see H. P. Hollis high up in the list of wranglers.

In the athletic world we are not well represented. The 'Varsity Fours' were decided to-day. In the first heats Lady Margaret, Jesus, and Trinity III. beat Caius, Trinity Hall, and Queen's respectively. Trinity I. rowed a bye. In the second heats Trinity I. was left behind by Lady Margaret, and Trinity III. was beaten by Jesus. The final heat was looked forward to with no little excitement, as the two boats were to meet on fair ground for the first time. The result of the race, however, was put beyond a doubt soon after the start, for the Jesus crew, owing to their bad steering, twice fouled the bank, and allowed the other boat to win as it liked. J. H. Williams, who would have rowed in the Third Trinity Four, was prevented by illness.

Next week the Freshmen's 'Sports' come off. S. R. Learmonth is Westminster's sole representative.

There are many other matters of purely local interest; for the particulars I can sincerely recommend your readers to *The Cambridge Review*.

[The above was intended for our last number, but unfortunately arrived too late for publication.—ED. *Elizabethan*.]

Cambridge, November 22, 1879.

As supplementary to my correspondence in this month's issue, I will add a few words congratulatory and otherwise. In the first place, four O.W.'s occupied thwarts in the winning boat of the third Trinity 'trial eights'; and, secondly, not one O.W. came forward in the Third Trinity athletic sports, which took place last week. This is a melancholy state of things, and a reason for it is hard to divine. Surely the standard of competition is not too high! There can be no lack of enthusiasm, for the 'trial eights' were rowed in a snowstorm.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—What has become of the O.W. Football Club at Cambridge? How is it I never see anything of its doings in *The Field* or in your valuable columns? Hoping that it has not died a natural death,

I remain yours &c.

AN OLD CANTAB.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—While reading in your columns a cursory life of Philip Henry, it struck me forcibly how many great men existed in those days who made the name of Westminster what it is. My thought reverted from Philip Henry to John Locke, whose life has been so well written by Mr. Fox Bourne. This great Nonconformist was born at Wrington in the year 1632. His family suffered greatly during the first years of the Civil War, owing to their partiality for the Roundheads; and it was through the interest of Colonel Popham, one of the Parliamentary generals in the West of England, that he entered Westminster School in 1646. He became a King's Scholar in 1647 under the famous Richard Busby. Among his schoolfellows were John Dryden, whose name is shown at Westminster, engraved on a form, a memorial of a great man; also Robert South, Mapletoft the physician, and William Godolphin, the brother of Sidney Godolphin, the scheming politician of the days of Anne. In 1649, when Charles was executed, Locke too, like Philip Henry, was probably an eyewitness of the scene. He was elected a junior student of Ch. Ch. in the year 1652, when John Owen, the eloquent theologian, was Dean. The latter was Dr. Reynolds's successor, who had supplanted Dr. Fell after the visitation of the Parliament, the event which took place when Philip Henry was a student. His tutor was Thomas Cole, also a Westminster scholar, and probably from him it was that John Locke derived most of his Nonconformist ideas, for Cole was rejected from the University in 1660 for his Nonconformity, the same indignity to which Locke was also subjected in 1684. As I do not intend to give a full history of Locke's career, I shall only dwell briefly on the chief points in his life. The teaching and doctrines of Descartes seemed to have exercised a wonderful influence upon him, and when he was made censor of Moral Philosophy in the University, this influence became more fully developed. In 1666 he made the acquaintance of Lord Ashley, who afterwards became Earl of Shaftesbury, satirised by Dryden in his *Absalom and Achitophel*, and with that nobleman he contracted a lifelong friendship. When Shaftesbury was made Chancellor, Locke was appointed Secretary of Presentations, which post he filled until compelled by illness to go abroad. On his return from France he again entered Lord Shaftesbury's service. This patron he lost in 1683, for he, having become embroiled in political intrigues, after his imprisonment, fled to Amsterdam only to die. Previous to this, Locke had written, but never published, *A Defence of Nonconformity*, in answer to Stillingfleet's *Mischief of Separation*. His views and his intimacy with Shaftesbury made him odious to the king, who had him expelled from the University. While in Holland he busied himself with his 'Essay concerning the Human Understanding,' which he published in 1690 and produced a very favourable impression. After his return to England, in 1688, with William of Orange, through Lord Mordant he became Commissioner of Appeals, his spare time being occupied in writing essays on 'Government' and 'Education.' His failing health soon demanded his retirement from public business, and he went to Oates, in Essex, the house of his friend Sir Francis Masham, where he died on the 28th of October 1704. Such was the life of a truly disinterested and patriotic man, whose influence on this country has been unbounded—a man that may well reflect honour and credit on the School that, as it were, fostered the young plant and developed its resources before it was exposed to the storms of those troublous times.

I am yours truly,

SCHOLÆ AMICUS.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to see that the old scandal of the singing (?) in Abbey still flourishes at Westminster. I thought matters must surely have mended during the six years (I believe that is about the length of time) since the singing was first attempted. I myself wrote you rather a long letter on the subject just four years ago (under the mysterious initials 'C.O.M.', the reason for choosing which I now cannot imagine), which you were good enough to publish. It contained what I thought were the reasons of failure, and suggestions for improvement. Like, I am afraid, too many of the suggestions in *The Elizabethan*, mine were not acted upon; but I flatter myself it is rather noticeable that no one replied, or combated my views; in fact, nothing further appeared on the subject for nearly two years. As I wished to examine the matter thoroughly, I have looked through and summarised all that has appeared on this question in *The Elizabethan*, and I have found on doing so that all the writers seem to belong to one of three classes. These consist, roughly speaking, of

I. Those who only blame the choir: who think it should be compelled, under penalties, to sing, and who declare its failures to be entirely due to want of will.

II. Those who blame the rest of the School for not joining in with, and following the lead of, the choir.

III. (And the great majority) Those who attribute the failure of the singing to defective arrangements for the practices &c. &c. of the choir.

Of course, these three kinds of criticism are not always separately maintained by the writers—for instance, the second and third classes are often combined—but they are, I think, the three principal ways of looking at the matter.

Writers in favour of the first view are few; and I think it must be generally allowed that their criticism is unjust and futile: *unjust*, because it is a mere assumption; *futile*, because it suggests no real remedy—for you cannot *compel* a choir to sing well, not to say at all. 'One man may lead a horse to the water' &c.

The second criticism is fair, and of importance; still it does not point out any real remedy for the failure of the choir to sing properly.

The third method of criticism above mentioned naturally deals with different points, on which it offers suggestions, with a view to general improvement of the singing. The main points hitherto discussed about the choir are—

1. *Its Arrangement during the Service.*
2. *Its Practices.*
3. *The Nature of the Music taught by it.*
4. *Its Constitution.*

1. *Its Arrangement.* Some have thought that it should be scattered up and down throughout the rest of the congregation, i.e. practically make it not a choir at all! The necessary idea of a choir is a compactly arranged body.

2. *Its Practices.* Great stress has rightly been laid by many writers on the necessity of frequent, thorough practices of the choir. I don't know whether matters have improved in the last four years, but it was then, as I myself wrote (as 'C.O.M.'), quite impossible for the choir to properly practise its music in the time and manner allotted for the purpose. The knowledge of music at Westminster is, I fancy (it certainly used to be), somewhat elementary and vague, and Singing at Sight not a very general accomplishment; it is unwise, therefore, to devote so short a time to practices. I added another point, in which I have been quite recently supported by such an authority as 'Mus. Bac.', that practices with the *Organ* were extremely desirable, if not altogether necessary.

3. *The Nature of the Music.*—This point has been discussed at considerable length by various writers, who have taken exception to the hymns and chants selected, and to the 'pointing' of the Canticles; some also suggest that all the music should be in unison. I do not propose to enter into all this just now. It seems to me to stand to reason that tunes with a moderate compass and of not too high a key should be chosen, considering the powers of the choir, and the early hour at which they have to sing; and therefore this may safely be left to the discretion of the musical authorities. Mistakes in these

matters will not explain the total failure of the choir ; and as that is what is being discussed, I will pass on to

4. *Its Constitution.*—This point has only been touched upon and not very often, yet it seems to me that the explanation of the whole matter lies in it. First of all, I am not at all sure, if, in talking of the *constitution of the choir*, I am not like some of the early Greek philosophers discussing the non-existent ! Has there really ever been an Abbey-choir at all ? Is there a list of its members ? Is their proper attendance noted ? Has any attempt been made to get up among them what, for want of an English term, must be called *esprit de corps* ? If this is not the case, it is perfectly easy to give an answer to the question, which, in your leader, you say has been answered by no one. Why do the choir not open their mouths ? for I reply at once, *Because there is no choir.* There certainly used to be nothing which could be called a choir : there was merely a nondescript collection of people, who used, if they fancied, to sit in certain pews in the Abbey where the music of the hymns and chants was placed. As I have said once before, matters may now have mended ; but it does not seem likely, since, only in your last leader, you deplore the absence of the above-mentioned *esprit de corps*. It is in this point that I think practical steps should be taken at once and with vigour. I have thus discussed the gist of previous criticisms and suggestions.

As this letter has already extended to far too great a length I must close, after noticing only one further point—one, too, that appears not to have previously attracted much notice, though to me it seems rather striking. It is this : on one memorable saint's day, towards the end of 1874, it is chronicled in your columns that a considerable improvement was observed in the singing, *Mr. Troutbeck being present.* Does not this look as if some kind of *leader* were wanted for the choir ? Commending this to your consideration,—I remain, yours &c.
H. M. C. M.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I am afraid I am reviving a subject over which much ink has already been spent in vain ; but I think the state of the books in library is so disgraceful that it ought not to remain any longer without protest. That such a valuable collection of rare and interesting literature should be left to moulder in the dust of ages, disregarded and almost forgotten, cannot but be eminently discreditable to Westminster. The aspect of these neglected shelves—some half-filled with books tumbled about in lamentable confusion, others littered only with dirt and fragments of paper, others with the wirework broken and dusty, while all are more or less disordered and dusty—is melancholy in the extreme, and, I fear, must fail to impress the casual observer with a high opinion of the industry and energy of the School. Cannot something really be done to remedy this state of things ? Is there no one in the School of sufficient antiquarian taste to be willing to devote a few hours to looking into and arranging this admirable collection, in which we might be expected to take some pride ? I believe there is some such officer in existence as a librarian. I should like to know what are the duties of this interesting functionary, and whether he has no power to act in the matter ? I should think a committee might be organised to inquire into the state of the books, and to redeem them from the disorderly chaos, into which long neglect has allowed them to fall, by working them through with a catalogue, if, as I should presume, such is in existence, or, if not, by compiling one, and arranging the books in order. As long as the library is left in its present condition it must remain a standing disgrace to Westminster ; and we may well be accused of caring nothing for the institutions handed down to us by our glorious predecessors. I am sure a wet half holiday spent in this work of love would not have been turned to bad account. Hoping that these few lines may not be altogether in vain, I remain &c.

LIBER.

[Some years ago a regular library committee was in existence, composed of members of the Sixth ; and the captain of the Third Elections is still the nominal librarian ; but we fear that the office is at present a sinecure, though it ought not to be so.—ED. *Elizabethan.*]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Not long ago no small outcry was raised at the clothes and property of a certain club playing a match with us at Vincent Square being walked off with wholesale, the thieves themselves escaping undetected. It seems to me this is not the only weak point needing remedy in the pavilion. Members of clubs in general cannot like having to perambulate about in the square, when changing after a match, from dressing-room to washhouse, and *vice versa*. Could not some arrangement be arrived at, by which players could have, if not a comfortable, at least an efficient, dressing and washing-room all in one, to recuperate their forces in, after a hard day's work ? Humbly apologising for trespassing thus on your valuable space, I beg to subscribe myself, yours truly,

P. Q. R.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I wish to bring under your notice some reasons and I think tolerably good ones, for fellows in the small game, as it is called—I suppose facetiously—not caring to go 'up fields,' and preferring to go to 'Gym' or anywhere else to avoid it.

1. There are no boundary posts.

2. There are such a quantity of fellows that no one, however good, can possibly have a run of any length.

[3] Even the goal posts are not worthy of the name, being stakes of about three or four feet high.

Could not something be done to remedy this ? Could not the small game be split up into two games ?—and surely boundary posts and proper goal posts are as necessary to the small game as the big one. Hoping that this will meet with approval in your columns, I am, yours truly,

C. E. F.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Permit me to call your attention to a machine that exists in 'Gym,' and which has for its object the improvement of the standard of rowing at Westminster.

Now, sir, in my opinion nothing can be more pernicious to good form than a continued use of it, and bad habits must be thus acquired which it is almost impossible to eradicate. In the first place, a man who uses it gets into a habit of pulling too much with his arms, and is very liable to finish his stroke with a jerk, since he has to make a violent effort to bring his hands into his chest when the body is perpendicular, and the back and legs cannot be brought into play.

Secondly, if he shoots his hands off sharply off his chest, as he should do, the weight will not have time to fall, and consequently, as he is bringing his body slowly forward, he will be caught by the weight, and will be *pulled* forward, to use a forcible expression, 'all in a heap.'

Hoping my remarks may in some degree tend to the disuse of this machine, which I feel sure cannot be too strongly condemned, I am, Sir, yours &c.

T. B.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—In the last number of *The Elizabethan* I saw a letter signed 'M.P.' in which the writer says, among several other rather weak remarks, that he 'finds, on examining the secretary's book, that only half a dozen notices of motion for the session have been given in, and as some of them are already disposed of the supply of debatable matter seems to be in serious danger of running short.' I am very much surprised to find that this is so, for I should have thought that there were not as many as half a dozen notices of motion ; for as it is not likely that all the members should want to bring forward motions at the same time, there is not much chance of there being a large number of notices of motion in the secretary's book.

Beside this I cannot see that the rule he proposes would in any way prevent the supply running short ; on the contrary, I think that it would considerably lessen the supply. For if (*sic*) the rule was made that notices of motion must be given in at the beginning of the term, in the first place, many of the members would not have thought of any motion so soon in the term ; in the second place, a lot of subjects for debate having to be got

together at once, a great many of them would be found to be alike; and, thirdly, of course some of the debates would necessarily have to come on at the end of the term; and if this happens to be the case with a political motion dealing with some topic of the day, at the end of the term things might have got so altered that the motion would have no longer any meaning, let alone the fact that the subject had been dropped by everyone and had become thoroughly stale.

Again 'M.P.' says that by this 'arrangement greater interest would be taken in the debates, and it would ensure a higher degree of eloquence and accuracy.' No doubt the debates at the end of the term might be improved (provided that there were enough debates brought forward at the beginning of the term to last to the end, which I certainly think there would not be if 'M.P.'s rule was carried out), but if the members were to take advantage of this extra length of time which was so given the debates at the end of the term, we should have the earlier debates not prepared at all. Trusting that 'M.P.'s' suggestions may *not* find favour in the eyes of the members.

I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours truly,

P. M.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—There is a project which I have long wished to bring forward, and which has always seemed feasible to me, but never more so than at the present time. I mean going on the water before Whitsuntide. I know that on half-holidays fellows do go up and get one or two hours' rowing; but usually of a very questionable sort, for fellows often miss the trains or boats and come up late; and, consequently, the fours have to be made up to a great extent from those who are on the spot, and so without regard to the respective merits of many. Now, however, that there is a regular launch which is only used by the School, why should it not run every evening between Easter and Whitsuntide as it does during the short half? To this as far as I can see there can be urged three objections at the outside. These are: the work for election, early lock hours, and additional expense. The first objection which seems to me the most weighty is I think nevertheless not insurmountable; of course those who are trying for their election are those who would most feel the pull on their time; but why in the world should they want to go 'up water' in the evenings? For they will not want practice as they will be leaving at the end of the term, and consequently they will not be wanted for the eights, and will be better out of the way. An objection hinging on this might be that the captain of water was trying for election, and consequently would not have time to devote to the boats; but there is no reason why he should not go up once at least during the week when he could take notes of the progress and arrange the crews accordingly, or if he cannot find time for this he had better resign altogether. In this way I think that the objection vanishes entirely. Early lock hours is the next objection that comes under our notice, and before dealing with it, I should like to make a suggestion, namely that it would not be necessary for more than some twenty of the best men to go up, and these might have special leave until eight as is usual in summer. In this case all those who went on the water would have to get leave from the head of water who would give the list to the house master which would prevent any going on the water to get off the first half of evening preparation, as only those who had some idea of rowing

would go up. This I think removes our second objection, and the third, namely the expense of working the launch and paying the man to work it, is surely counterbalanced by the many self-evident advantages that would accrue from the extra practice. Indeed, I have reason to believe that the only objection to having the launch running on half-holidays for the end of the election term, is the very reasonable one that a man would have to be engaged for the whole week, and would consequently be paid for time when he was not being made the most use of. This consideration, I think, frees us from our last objection; and we may consider the advantages that would be gained by the alteration. These must be patent to anyone who gives the matter a moment's thought. The main difficulty at present is that of getting acquainted with the form of the various fellows sufficiently well by the end of the long half as to arrange them in crews at the beginning of the summer term; this difficulty would vanish immediately if my plan were adopted. Besides this, at the beginning of the summer a large amount of preparatory tubbing is necessary, which takes up a lot of valuable time. Now this preparatory tubbing would all be got through in the five weeks between Easter and Whitsuntide. Then as soon as the fellows came back they would get into an eight such as last season had to be finished in, and after three or four weeks would get into a racing eight which would be a great improvement on the present state of affairs. I think the sooner this scheme is put in practice the better. Next year, now, would be a capital year to begin with, as the summer term is unusually long, and the experiment would have a fair trial. In proposing to begin after Easter, I put the proposition in as unassuming a form as possible, in hope that it might meet the approval of the authorities; but the earlier in the term that it begins the better of course it would be; in fact there is no reason why it should not begin as soon as football leaves off. I am afraid I have expressed myself at some length; but I am not going to apologise for 'trespassing on your valuable space,' even though I have no hope of my scheme being carried into effect. I therefore beg to subscribe myself,

G. P. O.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All contributions for insertion in the next issue of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in before January 24, to the Editor, S. Peter's College, Westminster.

Contributions are solicited for the Play Number, which will be published early in January.

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

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

Floreat.