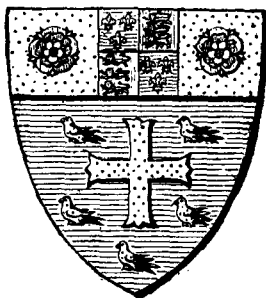


The Granite



Rebiew.

Nascitur exiguus,

acquirit eundo

vires

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ARCHIDIDASCALI WESTMONASTERIENSES.

No. 9. JOHN NICOLL.

PERHAPS no Westminster headmaster lives so vividly in the minds at least of those members of the school who find their way to Christ Church, Oxon., as does John Nicoll, the immediate successor of Robert Freind, and that too for a well-nigh unique reason. On the left hand side of the door as you enter the Hall of Christ Church hangs a picture of Nicoll, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Unhappily for our headmaster, that illustrious painter must have been seized with his not-unwonted eagerness to experiment with some particular colour used in painting the face of the reverend gentleman, and the result to posterity is a most ghastly and terrible portrait so far as the complexion is concerned, quite beyond description, and well-calculated to upset the digestion of any unhappy member of Christ Church whose eyes during dinner chance to light upon the picture in paint. John Nicoll was born at Preston Capes in Northamptonshire in 1683 and received his early education at Westminster as a Q.S. From there he was elected to Oxford in 1704, where six years afterwards he took his Master's degree, and in 1714 returned to Westminster again as Under-Master. His life during the next nineteen years, during which he held this appointment, appears to have been for the most part uneventful. The only recorded fact of even passing interest seems to be his appointment to the living of Inconstoke, Kants, in 1728. On the retirement of Freind, Nicoll became

headmaster and proved by the line of conduct he adopted that the direct opposite to Busby's system, one of leniency, may prove also a very successful one in the satisfactory education of the young. We venture to think that he was a foreshadow of Arnold; and those who believe in the doctrine of metempsychosis might reasonably associate as one of the same the souls of these two head-masters. Richard Cumberland, celebrated as a dramatist as well as for his essays, gives us, in the course of his writings, much interesting information as to the Westminster School of the early part of the Eighteenth Century. He relates that the rod was regarded as a poor sort of punishment as compared with "public contempt," and goes on to cite several instances, among which was an occasion when he himself had to appear before the Doctor for having disturbed a Quakers' meeting and having moreover, secretly made his way out of the Abbey during service for that purpose. Deep contrition appeared to have been written on his face, for the worthy doctor, remarking "Erubuit salva res est," sent him back to his seat without further ado. Among other distinguished pupils under Nicoll were no less than four headmasters, William Markham, John Hinchcliffe, Samuel Smith and William Vincent. Besides these must be mentioned the poet Cowper, the historian Gibbon and Warren Hastings. The last of these was an excellent scholar and promised fair to become distinguished at the University; but unfortunately, or indeed fortunately, his guardians refused to be put to the expense of paying the required fees and he was sent off to India to seek his fortune, though Dr. Nicoll did his utmost to prevent this; even promising himself to continue Warren's education at his own cost. Nicoll and Busby, if they differed in all else, yet agreed in this, that they devoted their utmost energies to secure a good, sound, religious education in the school and they especially emphasized the preparation for Confirmation.

Cowper himself, heartily as he is generally said to have loathed the school, bears testimony to the truth of this when he says that he must "relate one mark of religious discipline which was observed at Westminster: I mean the pains which Dr. Nicoll took to prepare us for confirmations." And so to form an estimate of Nicoll's character from this and other notices we may say that he was a kind-hearted, peace-loving man, zealous and eager in his work, hardly distinguished either in public or in private, whose merits are in chief borne witness to by long lists of prominent men educated under him. He remained head master for twenty years and then

retired and was appointed Canon of Christ Church in 1757. He had held a post which up to his time apparently no headmaster had ever held, that is Justice of the Peace for Westminster. On September 29th, 1765, he died and was buried in the Cathedral at Oxford, where a Latin inscription bears testimony to his Christian character.

COLLORIEL.

In our last number there was not room enough to add any remarks, which were needful, in explanation of the article containing an extract from the *mugae*. We will not insult our readers by supposing that they do not know what muzzing is, or at least what the word means. For the benefit of the ignorant we may explain that it was customary in former times for minor candidates to be coached for the "challenges" by third elections or seniors, who were called their "helps." Of course no one then could stand for election who had not been in the school a year previously. Picking up balls on the racket-court was a favourite method of fagging in those days and it would be well if it was revived again. We are indebted to a quondam fag, still up Grants, for the following sketch of a fag's life at the present day. Although it bears no date, we may inform any who read this article that it is a day in the Football season.

7 o'clock, got up and dressed 7.15 to 8, preparation, 8 o'clock, toasted bread for my master's breakfast, 8.10 breakfast, 8.30 I fetched my master's boots and cleaned up his table and put his books away. 9 o'clock went into Abbey and afterwards from 9.15 to 12.30 in School, 12.30 to 1 played in Green. 1 o'clock dinner, 1.30 changed and went Up Fields, 2 to 3 played football, 3.30 to 5 in school and at 5 o'clock had to go to Suts' and get my master some biscuits. 5.15 to 6.15 went to gymnasium, 6.15 to 6.30 made toast for my master's tea. 7 o'clock to 7.15 cleaned up master's table and put away his books and took down his boots to be cleaned. 7.15 to 8.45, preparation, 9 o'clock was tanned for being caught out of my place when the Monitor came into preparation, 9.30 filled my master's jug and got into bed rather sore.

Curiously enough the gentleman who supplied us with this extract from his diary, has also chosen a day when he came within the grasp of the law, so to speak, no doubt intending not to be outdone by the writer of the former extract. The hour for rising is considerably earlier than it used to be, and

the hour for going to bed likewise, which is no doubt a good thing though some of our readers may not think so. The fagging question has often been discussed and we do not intend to go into it here. The comparison of the records of two individuals are not to be relied on as unimpeachable evidence of the amount of work which falls to the lot of a fag in a house or school. This of course must vary, however imperceptibly, from year to year, according as the proportionate number of masters and fags varies. But these sketches are interesting rather as shewing the alteration in the habits and mode of life at Westminster in a period of over sixty years.

NOTES.

F. P. Farrar and E. M. Stopford left last term: the new boys are J. Lesley (boarder), and C. Stanhope Jones (half-boarder).

* * *

The following Grantites have represented the school this term in the Cricket Field: P. Armitage, B. I. Southey, J. O. Powell and E. W. Woodbridge.

* * *

Another Junior House match has been played against Junior Rigauds: in it Grants was defeated by 70 runs, chiefly owing to the superior bowling and batting of R. Berens; a full account of it will appear in our next number.

CRICKET.

JUNIOR GRANTS *v* JUNIOR H.B.B.

This match began on Friday, May 17th, and continued during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the following week. Campbell, who captained the Grantite team, won the toss and decided to go in first. Maclean and Mills went to the wickets but did not continue long together; Mills was bowled when the score was 3 (1 wicket for 3). Campbell followed and did not lose his wicket until the score was raised to 15

when he was caught by Pendred. Barwell was caught at 25. After this Maclean, who had been playing very steadily the whole time, did most of the run-getting. Corbett was run out when he had made 5 in rather shaky style. E. A. Everington was caught off his first ball: Winckworth, Fitzmaurice and H. D. Everington were bowled without scoring; and the score 52 for 8 wickets when Burton went in. He showed more promising form than any of the non-house-colours had hitherto done; and 10 runs were added before Maclean was bowled by Guy after compiling 33 runs in a most steady manner.

He showed better form than any one else on the side and the only fault to be found in his play is that his hitting was rather weak. Lambton and Burton added a few more runs before Lambton was dismissed and the innings ended for 69 runs.

On the following Monday Homeboarders went in and the innings was opened by Clarke and Guy, who were not separated till the score was 13, when Clark was run out. Pendred was soon caught by Winckworth off Fitzmaurice's bowling and Guy was bowled, three wickets falling for 19 runs. Of the remainder of the team no one made many runs, Agar was run out when he had made 3 runs and the score was 8 wickets for 28 runs. Barwell and Fitzmaurice did all the bowling for Grants, (with the exception of Maclean's one over), the former getting 4 wickets and the latter 3. The total score of Homeboarders was 36.

When the Grantites again tried their luck with the bat, they were not so fortunate. Mills and Maclean went in first, but when the score was at 6 the former hit his wicket, just causing the bail to fall off. Campbell went in next, but before another run was scored, Maclean was bowled by Clark. The match was continued next day, when Campbell was caught by Page at leg while the score was still 6. Corbett only made 2 runs. E. A. Everington then joined Barwell and 31 runs were put on before they were separated. Though the play was rather shaky at first, yet when the batsmen had got their eye in, it was very creditable and was mainly distinguished by strong hitting. Everington was bowled by Dyson when he had made 19 without giving a chance (5 for 39.) Barwell was bowled by Pendred soon after. Burton and Fitzmaurice did not score, Winckworth hit two fours and then was brilliantly caught at long-on by Page. Lambton succumbed to the bowling of Dyson, and the total score was 47 runs.

Homeboarders had 81 runs to get to win.

Agar and Clark opened the innings but the latter was soon disposed of (1 wicket for two runs); Pendred took his place and the prospects of Homeboarders now appeared more promising. Runs were gained steadily till the score stood at 17 when Pendred was clean bowled by Fitzmaurice (1 wicket for 17). Guy made 4 runs but was bowled first ball, when the game was continued on Wednesday. Winslow was dismissed by Barwell when he had made 3 and Edwards only contrived to make a couple before he succumbed to the same bowler. Dyson was caught by Everington off Fitzmaurice's bowling—(6 wickets for 27 runs). A. G. Guy was bowled by Fitzmaurice after making 8 runs in a flukey manner, the score at the fall of this wicket being 7 for 39. Page was the next man, but he was soon disposed of by Fitzmaurice. Then Batchelor went in and kept his wicket up till he had made 15 runs and the score was 65. This stand made the match very exciting; but Paget was bowled by Burton, who had taken the previous wicket, without any further runs being added. Thus Junior Grants were left victors by 15 runs. Agar, who went in first and was not out, played a consistently steady game throughout and was the main-stay of the Homeboarder batting.

The Granite team ought certainly to have won more easily, as they had four House colours while Homeboarders had none. The fielding of the Granite team was superior to that of the Homeboarders, but there is room for improvement which, we hope, will be seen in the match *v.* Junior Rigauds.

The scores were :

JUNIOR GRANTS.

1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.	
F. J. Maclean b A. W. F. Guy	33 b. Clark	4
G. E. Mills 7 Clark	2 Hit wicket by Guy	2
G. E. Campbell (capt.) c Pendred b Clark	9 c Page, b Clark.	0
W. T. Barwell, c Pendred, b Clark	1 b Pendred	11
J. Corbett, run out	5 b Guy	2
E. A. Everington, c Clark, b Dyson	0 b Dyson	19
D. P. Winckworth, b Guy	0 c Page, b Pendred	8
D. Fitzmaurice, b Page	0 b Dyson	0
H. D. Everington, b Page	0 Not out	0
E. G. Burton, not out	9 c Pendred, b Dyson	0
C. N. Lambton, b Clark	4 b Dyson	0
Extras	6 Extras	1
	—	—
	69	47

JUNIOR HOMEBOARDERS.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
A. G. Clark, run out		8 c Fitzmaurice, b Barwell	2
A. W. Guy, b Fitzmaurice		6 b Fitzmaurice	4
B. Pendred, c Winckworth, b Fitzmaurice		6 b Fitzmaurice	12
C. Winslow, c E. Everington, b Barwell		1 b Barwell	3
T. Edwards, b Barwell		o b Barwell	2
C. Agar, run out		3 not out	14
J. Dyson, b Fitzmaurice		o c E. Everington, b Fitzmaurice	1
C. Page, c H. Everington, b Barwell		3 b Fitzmaurice	o
E. Paget, b Barwell		1 b Burton	o
W. Batchelor, run out		3 b Burton	15
A. G. Guy, not out		1 b Fitzmaurice	8
Extras		4 Extras	4
		36	65

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

JUNIOR GRANTS.

	1ST INNINGS.				2ND INNINGS.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
A. G. Clark	-	12	5	17	4	11	5	16	2
B. Pendred	-	6	1	15	0	3	1	8	2
J. Dyson	-	8	2	13	1	5	4	1	4
A. W. Guy	-	8	2	11	2	13	4	21	2
C. Page	-	3	0	7	2				

Clark bowled a wide; Pendred 1 no-ball, Dyson 2, and Page 2 wides,

JUNIOR HOMEBOARDERS.

	1ST INNINGS.				2ND INNINGS.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
D. Fitzmaurice	-	12	3	20	3	25	13	24	5
W. T. Barwell	-	11	7	8	4	19	4	29	3
F. Maclean	-	1	0	6	0				
E. Burton	-					6	2	8	2

Maclean bowled a wide.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*,

DEAR SIR,—The "Eights" are now coming near and are, as usually, attracting considerable attention. Commemoration is about four weeks later. On the river we shall see in all probability several O.W. representatives but I fear no Old Grantites.

Yours, etc.,

ARISTOKRATIKOS.

EDITORIAL.

It was the full intention of the Editor of the *Grantite Review* to have issued three numbers this term; but this, the first one, has been detained so long by the printer that it has become impossible to fulfil our wish. The next number, however, which will contain an account of the final House match, will be a double one.

NOTICES.

All contributions to be clearly written on one side of the paper.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor of *The Grantite Review*, 2, Little Dean's Yard, S.W.

The yearly subscription is half-a-crown; it is requested that all subscriptions now falling due, or not yet paid up, should be forwarded to the Editor.

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

Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address to the Editor.

FLOREAT.