

our soloists? Where is the Barber, the Case, the Göschen of former days? Is it possible that out of a community of five hundred human beings there are so few fine voices? They must be somewhere: their assistance is urgently required. Next comes the question of instrumental music; for if anything is more delightful than vocal, it is instrumental: and nothing in this way has been done at present. Efforts are said to have been made last term, but as they did not produce any orchestra, we conclude they failed. Now there ought to be many lovers of music, who cannot sing, yet have an instrument of some kind at hand to beguile a winter evening; the services of these would be gladly accepted at the concerts, without their being troubled formally to join the choir. We are told that Mendelssohn's 42nd Psalm is proposed for our practices between now and July, instead of a selection from any oratorio; and as there is more time than usual on our hands, we shall naturally have a concert in July far superior to any that has yet been given. Before a month has passed, we hope that something will be in preparation; we are strong in trebles, and have still one or two of each of the other voices to keep up our reputation as soloists; especially now there is little to be done, and the Rifle Corps is urging us to be diligent, we ought to make the most of the long evenings, before the pleasures of cricket and bathing call the most earnest members of the choir from the art that more than all others hath charms.

HACKING AT FOOTBALL.

This is a custom on which, or rather against which, a great deal has lately been written by well-meaning English people (we used the word English advisedly, because they seem to have been chiefly incited thereto by a peculiarly

John Bull horror of kicking or being kicked). Now, with regard to these people, we have noticed one thing, namely, that the people who have the most to say against the custom, are, as is often the case, people who have never tried it, who have known nothing about it to begin with, and who, to go on with, have taken the worst examples of it for their instruction: not exactly the right way to attain to a high pitch of erudition on any subject; in fact they have made the not uncommon mistake of passing over the less conspicuous results of the custom and looking only at the more apparent. It will be objected that it is rather strange that the more apparent results of hacking should be always bad, but the reason is, that this custom develops rather the passive virtues than the active, by teaching those who play to keep their temper, sometimes under trying circumstances, to bear rather than to do. Of course, among so many, it is impossible to find all perfect, and, disagreeable things do happen sometimes, yet we will venture to say that if any one were to come to Rugby and watch every match during the football season, he would chronicle more instances of good temper and friendly contest than of bad temper or spite. We ourselves have now for the space of six years played Rugby football, and have only known three instances of the kind, when a player was laid up by deliberate hacking. Two of these instances were certainly disgraceful, but as we before remarked, among so many there will always be some black sheep, and public opinion was certainly not favourable on this occasion to the offenders. The other was the case of a strong fellow who richly deserved it for taking advantage of his strength to play unfairly, and was indeed chiefly done in self-defence. But these good people will again take up their parable and say "Why should such a custom be necessary, why cannot you play without it?" To this we can only reply that if they knew anything of the Rugby game, or would even come to look at it, they would certainly see how necessary it is to facilitate the passage of the ball through innumerable pairs of legs, and thus prevent waste of time of which there is enough as it is. Probably when the game first began, hacking was not an institution, but when the players came to find how inevitably it did occur, they made it legal under certain conditions, and

wisely too we think, for nobody except a poor sort of fellow loses his temper over a hard hack fairly given, while at a breach of the rules, such as a hack would be if not legalized, people get very angry. While we are speaking of football we may as well take notice of the last new rule which was lately passed by Big Side. It aims at preventing waste of time in putting the ball down, and thereby promoting running scrummages which used to be the beauty of the game, and getting rid of tight ones which are an abomination. In former times a player when obliged to "have it down," put the ball down and fought his enemies single-handed instead of waiting till both sides come up to form a tight scrummage. We are not generally advocates of the "good old times," but we do think that fellows played the game more for its own sake than for the sake of being cock house, they played what was emphatically *the game*, and not football as adapted to the relative strength of one house against another.

BIG-SIDE LEVEES.

I. At a Big-Side Levee, called by Mr. F. W. Haslam, on January 29th, Mr. W. D. Allen in the chair, Mr. F. W. Haslam, seconded by Mr. Pauncefote, moved that one compulsory Big-Side a week should be played in Reynolds' field this term. Carried *nem. con.*

II. At a Big-Side Levee, called by Mr. F. W. Haslam, on February 1st, Mr. Ormerod being in the chair, Mr. Haslam, seconded by Mr. Sykes, moved that "the ball, when thrown out of touch, be not in play, nor touched by any player outside touch, until it have touched the ground." Mr. Davenport moved, as amendment, "That the rule be tried during this term." The motion, with the amendment, was carried *nem. con.*

FOOTBALL.

The first of the Big-Sides in Reynolds' field took place on Saturday, February 2nd. The

match was Barby Road v. Hillmorton, the former numbering 31, and the latter 28, the former being also aided for a short time by the valuable services of Cook (o.e.). For Barby, Wilkes, Yardley, and Gardner, played back; Pauncefote, Sykes, and Ellis, half-back. For Hillmorton, Tobin ma., Fitzgerald, and Bourne, played back; Haslam ma., and Gwatkin, half-back. Vivian kicked off for Barby: for some time no advantage was got by either side, the penning being about equal; Pauncefote made two brilliant runs in for Barby, one of which was punted out by Vivian and missed, the other was unsuccessfully tried by Yardley. For Barby, the play of Wilkes and Gardner (back), Pauncefote and Sykes (half-back), and Vivian, Roupell, and Bucknill (forward), was conspicuous. For Hillmorton, Ringrose played splendidly; we must also notice the play of Tobin ma. (back), Haslam ma. and Gwatkin (half-back), and Davenport, Soutter, and Crenshaw (forward).

On the same day a match, below caps, was played between the School House and Mr. Hutcheson's, which ended in a victory for the former.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CLOSE.

Many new and very useful attractions are being made in the close: a new walk is being made, connecting the old Fives Court with the new, another in a line from the door of the Racquet Court to the old Pavilion. These walks are to be much broader than their predecessors, and beautiful terraces are being raised; indeed, all is being done in such good taste (for which we are indebted to Mr. Arnold) that the close will soon vie in beauty and excellence with any cricket ground in England. We must not omit to tender our sincere thanks to Dr. Temple for his munificence in promising to drain the "Racquet Court piece."

CAMBRIDGE HONOUR.—Mr. S. Parkin (formerly at the Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's), 11th Wrangler, 1867.