

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 scrum. 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. Hutchinson'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.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Ah! yes! Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit

Nulli flebilior quam mihi:

My Horace comes back to me as I think about it. You are all going to make a great fuss about me, I daresay, now that I have been out of the way for so long, but there is one little point that I should like to direct your attention to, and it is, that you have allowed an institution that I had great hopes of, to die: I mean your Debating Society; and I repeat I had great hopes of it, for I like you, who are such an honour to me in other respects, to have opinions, and to be able to express them, ventilate them, and improve them. I heard a rumour that one of the Houses (*I never intended there should be Houses*) had got up a debating Society; but what can a House do? I do not understand all these *House this and House that*,—I like to see the School united in doing things; not but that it was a creditable thing of a House to do; but I hope to hear (by the bye I do not get the papers regularly: I hope you will direct the Meteor right), I hope to hear soon that several Houses have started Debating Societies; I hope they will then join forces and form a School Debating Society: if you will just see to this, you will very much gratify

Your grumbling Founder,

LAWRENCE SHERRIFFE.

SIR,

The wants and grievances of the School are sundry and manifold, and as this year is the Tercentenary, could not something be done to remedy one or two of them? The first that suggests itself to my mind is the heart-rending state of the pavement of the "Rugby" Fives Courts, especially the middle Court, which is the most sought-after and in which the School hand-fives are played off. The present state of the Court is such that very often the ball shoots straight along the pavement, or bounds in a

directly opposite direction to what it would do in the ordinary course of things: and this, to say the least of it, is provoking in the middle of a good round, or in a game in which every point is of importance. Could not something be done to remedy this before the Hand-Fives are played off this year?—It is now some little time since the question was first agitated of the slope being filled up, but the naked eye cannot yet discern any marked alteration in the condition of the said slope. In foot-ball season oft have I heard the cry "Throw it out on to the top of the slope," but the scrummage is usually precipitated down it, wherever the ball is thrown: and, as in wet weather the mud is more than an inch deep, the turf is torn up and the ball steadily increases in weight, much to the hindrance of a good drop. Were I not afraid of encroaching on your space I might suggest the propriety and comfort of some sort of covering at Swift's, under which we could dress. The state of the Island deserves also public attention: shall this ancient tumulus remain neglected? As it is all we have in the shape of a gymnasium, why not have one or two more respectable bars for the use of our growing athletes: possibly our high jump (which has not for many years exceeded 5 feet) might be improved, if there were a better place to practise.

I am, Sir, Yours obediently,

G. K.

SIR,

Allow me through the medium of your columns to ask whether you can inform me why the custom of wearing the gold and silver cord round the House caps has fallen into disuse? It was with feelings of great regret that I noticed last year how few House caps thus adorned were worn by those who had obtained the honour. Why should not members of House Twenties wear it, just as members of House Elevens do their blue bands? Hoping when next I come down to see this custom revived,

I am, Sir, Yours truly,

P. K.