



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

No. 7.

RUGBY, JULY 4th, 1867.

Price 6d.

THAT great ingenuity has been displayed in the uses to which our Tercentenary has been put, no one can, we think, deny. It has been made—as all extraordinary events, whether of a joyous character or the reverse, are made by Englishmen—an opportunity for the production of long subscription lists. Rugby has found in it occasion for showing itself a loyal member of the “nation of shopkeepers,” by using it as a stimulus to local trade. Our 300th birthday has been used for—the perpetrators themselves use the more indefinite term celebrated by—the introduction of Tercentenary letter clips, Tercentenary walking-sticks, we even believe Tercentenary biscuits. We intend, by making a circumstance of its celebration the point of a very severe lecture to our readers, to put it to yet another use.

A correspondent started in our last number the subject of communication between members of different Houses. He blamed severely (we cannot but think justly) present Rugbeians for letting House feeling predominate over, if not some times extinguish, School feeling.

We purpose to give our mite of strength to support our “Cosmopolitan” friend by showing how a circumstance which struck us at our late Tercentenary celebrations confirms the truth of his arguments. Last week we were visited by no less than 240 Old Rugbeians. We saw them in the Close, we saw them at the Dinner Table, we saw them on the Racquet Court, in short we saw them everywhere. But we saw nothing among them of that which staunch present Rug-

beians call “House feeling.” Old Rugbeians walked and talked with one another with perfect freedom, in spite of having belonged to different houses. If there was more ground for conversation and mutual reminiscences between old house-mates, we lost sight completely of that line of demarcation which, if Rugby was in their day what it is in ours, must have cut them off formerly from every one else; if each Old Rugbeian did pay a visit to his old study and calumniate improvements in ventilation and decoration; if he did lunch with his old tutor, he did not, as far as we could see, regard, on leaving his old house, every one as his implacable enemy who had not belonged to it,—a feeling something akin to which “house feeling” not unfrequently now demands. In fact, as far as this house feeling was concerned, their lives seemed the realisation of perfect peace. School Houseite sat side by side with Evanite and Ansteyite; Bradleyite, Cottonite, and Mayorite drank from the same bottle, and shared the same net before their innings in the close. In a word, they lived not as Ansteyites or Cottonites, but as Rugbeians.

Now two things must be insisted on with regard to these Old Rugbeians. Whatever speakers in the past week may have said in proposing their health, it is certain that their connexion with the School is very close, in fact that their feelings towards the School are the same as those which present Rugbeians possess or ought to possess. And secondly, that we are bound (and this is very important to our argument), to follow their

example. We are bound to do so, inasmuch, as they are creatures of a higher existence than ourselves; who have taken wing to another and a more exalted world.

We may add that here several metaphors occur to us from the natural world as illustrating, very aptly, our relations with the Old Rugbeians, in which we might call them the butterflies and ourselves the — but we refrain, lest we may be taken for members of the R.S.N.H.S. If, therefore, they find it right to let school feeling prevail over house feeling, it follows that we are forced to accept their decision and follow their example. If it be true that our time of life is of an essentially imitative character, as philosophers say, our task is not hard. — We have only to make the Old Rugbeians of the Tercentenary our example, and we shall have cured one of the greatest defects of our School.

THE Celebration of the Tercentenary has at last come and gone, and although we were not so overwhelmed with Old Rugbeians as one would have expected, yet the proceedings have passed off in a manner worthy of the great event. The weather last Wednesday was all that could be desired, and the close, o'er-shadowed by its noble elms, suggested many a happy recollection to the minds of the older Rugbeians. We must, however, apologise to our readers before we commence, for not giving an account of such detail as one would have expected from a School paper; we hope that most of our readers are already acquainted with the facts from the daily papers, and our small space entirely prevents us describing them at full length.

The Chapel service commenced at half-past eleven. The Litany was read, followed by a sermon, preached by Dr. Temple, who took for his text, I. Cor., xii., 26 and 27, — "And whether one member suffer all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." These words, he explained, although they at first had reference to the only Christian Church, yet at the present day they fully applied to an English Public School. He then showed how that a School like this was certainly a fraction, however small, of the Church, that every one there held his affections for the place all his life, and felt how an honour gained by a Rugbeian reflected credit not only on himself, but on the whole School; and similarly how the disgrace of a Rugbeian would seem to taint the

whole body. A deep impression was made on the whole congregation by this excellent sermon, which, if printed, as we hope it may be, we are sure every Rugbeian will peruse with infinite gratification. The Holy Communion was then administered by the Bishop of London and several of the Masters, and the service was scarcely concluded by two o'clock.

THE SPEECHES.

These proceedings commenced in Big School, which was crowded to inconvenience with visitors and old Rugbeians. The Bishop of London, Dr. Temple, and others were received with great cheering. Among those present, we noticed:—The Ven. John Sandford, B.D. (Archdeacon of Coventry), the Rev. Dr. Vaughan (Vicar of Doncaster and late Head Master of Harrow), the Very Rev. A. P. Stanley, D.D. (Dean of Westminster), the Rev. J. Collis, D.D. (Head Master of Bromsgrove Grammar School), Archdeacon Philpott, the Rev. W. Holbech (Trustee of the School), the Rev. W. Gover, M.A. (Principal of the Training College, Saltley), the Rev. J. Percival, M.A. (Head Master of Clifton College), the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen (M.P. for the city of London), Colonel Fane, M.P., Sir J. D. Hay, Bart., M.P., Sir J. Ferguson, M.P., Sir J. M. Stewart, the Hon. Capt. Ward, the Rev. S. Hansard, Mr. T. Walrond, the Rev. H. A. Pickard, Mr. W. Dickins (Chairman of the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions), Mr. T. C. Sneyd Kynnersley (Stipendiary Magistrate of Birmingham and Recorder of Newcastle-under-Lyme), Mr. C. H. Bracebridge (Atherston Hall), Mr. R. Ewins Bennett (of the Midland Circuit), Mr. Arthur Mills, and many other gentlemen, Old Rugbeians.

Before the Speeches commenced, Dr. Temple made a short speech, remarking that Old Rugbeians could not do a greater kindness to the School than by coming down occasionally, and that their presence did a good deal more than they supposed. He preferred Old Rugbeians to see the School on an ordinary Speech-day than that anything special should be introduced. Dr. Temple then read a list of honours gained by Old Rugbeians during the past year, which were as follows:—James Lee Warner, clerical fellow of University College; A. B. Steward, classical demy of Magdalen College; H. F. Cope, and G. Farwell, first-class in moderations; A. C. Tosswill, first-class in mathematical moderations; A. Barratt, first-class in law and modern history school (making his