



# The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

No. 14.

RUGBY, MARCH 5th, 1868.

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MUCH as has been said about the Fives Courts and the system by which they are engaged for play, until we were favoured by a happy thought on the subject by "A Fives Player," we cannot say that we had before us any beneficial measure of reform. The first we heard of the question was from "Hillmorton," who merely brought the subject into notice in rather a round about style, without giving any definite plan for amendment. Our next correspondent stood up as the champion of the would-be injured House, very proud that his House has not so many sixth fellows as Blake's, and so many students of Natural Science as Wilson's; and what devotion does he boast of for his House, but that they are more addicted to voluntary games? But we are afraid his argument does not go for much when we reflect that all Houses have the same opportunities of excelling in School; all may study Natural Science; the Sixth of all Houses may make Football compulsory; but Hand-fives and Ends after dinner are restricted to Arnold's, whenever they please to play them. Again, we are not aware that Arnold's excell all other Houses in Racquets, that is a voluntary game? No, for the Racquet Court is not a monopoly of theirs. They are not enormously superior to other Houses in running, are they? No, for all Houses have the same opportunities of excelling in that line. Yes, and there are other voluntary games, in which other Houses can hold their own; but in Cricket and Hand Fives Arnold's certainly have greater opportunities for excelling. The very fact that the House is in the Close, and that it is but a step to the Fives Courts and just a step to

the Ends, gives and will always give them slight advantages in those games. But surely because their House is near the Fives Courts there can be no reason why they should be further favoured by a monopoly of these Courts. Judging from his arguments it would be impossible to think that our correspondent ever got so high in the School as the Sixth, unless he himself had given us the information.

And now we come to a third correspondent's ("A. M.") views on the subject; a most elaborate composition, all the *pros* and *cons* classified evidently to his entire satisfaction. The idea of going solemnly down to the School Bath and starting up the hill in all directions, is very ludicrous. But even this would be preferable to the existing system.

And now our eye rests on still another epistle, that of "H. J.," which we publish. A staunch unyielding Tory must he be. "It is a custom, and why should we abolish it?" But again he says "it has worked very well." May we reply, if the custom be a bad one, remove it; and assuredly this custom is an unfair one to all the other Houses but Arnold's.

The best proposal undoubtedly is that by "A Fives Player," whose chief plan is to have a slate, as for the Racquet Court. Surely this is a good plan. Could not a slate be kept at the Racquet Court, with the Fives Courts for that day and the following, and let the Courts be taken at Diver's as the Racquet Court. The chief and great advantage of this would be that nearly every one

would be satisfied—for it would be on the same footing with the Racquet Court—viz., first out of 1st Lesson gets the Courts, and nearly every one is satisfied with that, for those who wish to play Racquets always get Courts somehow or other, but at present many cannot get Fives Courts when they want them.

And while we are assailing the Hand-fives Court nuisance, let us not forget another which has not yet been so much assailed, but which we are sure requires it just as much if not more than the other. We allude to the Bat-fives Court. It is not so easy for a House to monopolize the three Fives Courts with four players on each, as for a House to monopolize the Bat-fives Court with only two players. Undoubtedly the Bat-fives Court should be dealt with as the Hand-fives Courts, and we contend there should be a slate kept at Diver's for the Racquet, Hand-fives, and Bat-fives Courts, and let all the School have opportunities for practising at and enjoying those games, for which School prizes are awarded.

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SWEET is the sight of Dover Cliffs (to use a not unheard of illustration) to the British seaman, and sweet is the early worm to the early bird who drops thereon,—yea, sweet, too, the double-figure exhibited on the telegraph to the aspiring batsman, and sweet the “rattle in the timber-yard” to the ambitious bowler,—yea, they are all sweet; but sweeter far than all is, to the Editorial heart, the letter that in full yet pungent terms produces—a real grievance. Great is the mind of the mighty nameless Editor of the *Times*; great, too, though in a less degree, that of the equally unknown Editors of the *Standard* or *D. T.* Yet even such mighty intellects may be supposed to feel a thrill of joy when “Vindex” or “M. M. P.” trespasses on their valuable space to call attention to the fact that five out of six West-end butchers make a profit of 30 per cent., or Smith invokes their mighty aid against Jones, who detracts from the immortal fame which Smith's respected sire has won as the sole inventor of the “Ægroplekasora” boot-blackening machine. Seriously, grievances are the daily bread of newspapers: if no one has the spitefulness, or, as rather oftener happens, the ingenuity to discover one, Editors, speaking metaphorically, must grow thin and languish.

Rugby, or rather the sphere of the *Meteor*,—for the two terms are not precisely synony-

mous—is really without a good grievance. Either the stock has failed, or those whose acidity of temper supplied us at first with the necessary diet have left, and have grown sweeter and less capable of grievance-finding as they have grown older Rugbeians: some of our old ones have been, alas! cured: others, though evincing the utmost perseverance in their originators, are seen to be evidently unequal to the task of rousing the British Lion to the pitch at which, by profuse purchases of newspapers, he becomes profitable to the Editorial class.

For three long weeks we have carried on the search, but in vain. We have gone down to lessons determined to come back brimming over with wrath at the little boys in the town who desecrate the quads with hand-fives; but at such hours the exuberant spirits of the members of the lower school have been invariably curbed, either by the four walls of Big School or nestling under their paternal roof, and we have returned grievanceless.

We have watched for a hat of shape extraordinarily battered, or a notice on Big School more than ordinarily the subject of miscellaneous wit, that we might kindle in our pages and in our readers' hearts the fire of a good controversy. But without result.

Perhaps the editorial brain, under troubles of scanty correspondence and scanty news, has lost the keenness of vision necessary for grievance hunters. At any rate we come to the Rugby labouring world: Suffer not, ye noble sons of Sheriffe, the organ of your School to pine for lack of this or that: let the boxes of Pepperday and Tait,—capacious and all-receiving though they be,—overflow in the next three weeks with effusions as pungent in sarcasms, as profuse of note paper: and forget not that amid all such effusions none can be more acceptable than the good old English grievance.

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WEEP, O ye Athletes! Weep, O ye ladies! for the Athletics are again in rainy, wintry March. We at least have the satisfaction to know that last year we did raise a remonstrance; this year we did not do so, and we are doomed to another cold, comfortless scene at our games. Why should they not be in April? Why not in May, or June, or July? These are four delightful warm summer months. We feel more athletic on a cheerful April day than in drizzling March. The spectators enjoy warmth more than rain, parasols more than umbrellas. Rugby may be brought to see this, some day; let us hope.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

A Meeting of the Society was held for the exhibition of Microscopic objects on February 22nd. Mr. T. N. Hutchinson kindly lent his drawing-room for the evening, and made a short address on Microscopes, dwelling especially on their polarizing apparatus. Microscopic objects were exhibited by Messrs. Wilson, Hutchinson, Robertson, Kitchener, E. J. Norton, and F. R. Smith.

A frog under the action of ether was exhibited to show the circulation of the blood. The frog is reported to be doing well since the operation.

A change was made in the method of electing members; the ballot is not to be used, but names are to be submitted to a committee for election. H. G. Wauton, J. P. Baynes, W. H. Pike, M. W. E. De Bunsen, and E. J. Norton were elected members.

J. H. Davies has been appointed Secretary.

The property of the Society is at present kept at Mr. Kitchener's, where members have access to it on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, between 2 and 6.

A meeting will be held on March 7th, in Sixth School at quarter to eight, when papers are promised by Mr. Wilson, "on the Victoria Works;" and by J. H. Davies, "on Sensitive Plants."

On March 21st, a paper will be read by G. F. Helm, Esq., "On the circulation of the blood."

R. S. R. C.

It may interest some to hear what is at present contemplated with regard to the organization of the Rifle Corps. We hope to receive official permission from the War Office this week to be enrolled. As two permanent Officers are required to command the Corps, Mr. J. S. Philpotts, whom we would here thank for the great interest he has always taken in the Corps, has kindly taken on him the arduous duty of Captain, and Mr. H. Lee Warner has taken the post of Lieutenant. We can at present only muster 63 members over 17 years of age, but hope that we shall soon see the numbers swell.

The Cadet Corps will remain on exactly the same footing as hitherto; it numbers

about 60, so that at present we have 120 members in the Rifle Corps.

The question of a New Range is still undecided, but it is hoped that something definite will be settled by the end of the month.

We have great pleasure in recording a victory as the result of the first expedition made by the Corps this year. On Saturday, Feb. 22, a team went over to visit the Coventry Corps, and notwithstanding the hurricane that was blowing, succeeded in making a very creditable score. Fewer misses should have been made at the 200 yards' range, but at the longer distance the shooting was considerably improved. The Coventry Corps were hardly in their usual form, or we should probably have a different tale to tell; as it is, however, the R. S. R. V. may congratulate themselves heartily on having achieved a victory over such cracks. Score:—

THE SCHOOL.

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Captain Tobin.....	32324	14	34203 12—26
Sergeant Humphry .....	23342	14	24233 14—28
Corporal Penrose .....	42232	13	33223 13—26
“ Botfield .....	22023	9	22230 9—18
Lnce.-Corp. Chaplin .....	02404	10	03304 10—20
“ “ Stuart Wortley .....	20433	12	00423 9—21
“ “ Whiting ....	33333	15	r2324 11—26
Private A. N. Other .....	23223	12	30233 11—23
Totals....	99		87 188

COVENTRY.

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Lieutenant Blake .....	42433	16	42r24 12—28
Corporal Wilsby.....	23220	9	0rrr3 3—12
“ Tillet .....	22233	12	00030 8—15
“ Butler.....	23323	13	023r3 8—21
Private J. Wilson .....	22334	14	23230 10—24
“ W. Truslove ....	42332	14	3r034 10—24
“ T. Howard.....	23023	10	02332 10—20
Corporal Beamish .....	22333	13	02024 8—21
Totals..	101		64 165

The sun was shining brightly the whole time, and the wind blowing a hurricane from left to right.

The Baldwin Challenge Cup was competed for on Thursday, February 27th. We are glad to see that some fresh blood has been infused into the Corps, and the old members of the XI. will have to work hard to hold their own against such shooting as won the Cup on Thursday. The day was bitterly cold, and the wind very strong from left to right. The winner, Corporal Botfield, made an excellent score of 40 at the three ranges,

five shots at each; Sergeant Humphry being second, Bugler Whiting third, and Captain Tobin fourth. On both these occasions Wimbledon targets and scoring were used.

A match against the Town Corps for the possession of the Town and School Challenge Cup is settled for Monday next, March 9th.

### BIG-SIDE LEVEES.

A Big-Side Levee was held on Saturday, February 22nd, when the following business was transacted:—

Mr. Masterman, seconded by Mr. Bucknill, proposed that the Athletic Games be on March and .—Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Masterman, seconded by Mr. Yardley, proposed that, in order to improve the time in which the mile race was run, it should this year be run on a road.—Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Rowden, seconded by Mr. Yardley, proposed that, in order to promote the game of Eton Hand-fives, for which the School had been presented with two courts by several of the Masters, there be a School prize for Double Eton Hand-fives.—Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Yardley, proposed that the Double Racquets and Double Hand-fives no longer count towards the Cup, since individual merit could be shown by getting first or second in the Single. Mr. Masterman, seconded by Mr. Graham, opposed. There was a majority for the motion, but there being a dispute whether or not two-thirds were required, the question was postponed till a future Levee.

Another Levee was held on the following Tuesday, when Mr. Masterman withdrew his opposition to the aforesaid motion, and it was consequently passed.

Mr. Bucknill, seconded by Mr. Yardley, proposed that Cricket should be played in the Close on Saturday, March 7th.—Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Masterman, proposed that the fine of one shilling for absence from Big-Side should be abolished, in order that motions might not be carried by those who neither knew or cared for what was being proposed; and that the Levee might be composed of those who were really interested in the motions. Mr. Rowden,

seconded by Mr. Yardley, opposed, and the motion was lost by a considerable majority.

Mr. Masterman, seconded by Mr. Rowden, proposed that all the motions to be proposed at Big-Side Levees be sent in at least the day before.—Carried *nem. con.*

### BIG-SIDE PAPER CHASES.

This is *par excellence* the season for runners. There have been three Big-Side Paper Chases, besides many undertaken by the different Houses. The first took place on Thursday, Feb. 13th, and was well attended. The hares were Scott and Eddis, who laid scent round by Tripontium and Clifton, and home by Clifton road. The scent, however, was not followed by the hounds, who took a new line of country for themselves.—The second was run on Monday, Feb. 17, for which there was a large meet. The hares, Scott and Gordon, started at the Rev. C. B. Hutchinson's, and after going along Barby Road for a little way, struck across by Bilton and Dunchurch, to Caldecott's Spinney; from thence through Newbold and up to the town, arriving at the School gates. The hounds, from some cause, did not arrive until shortly before locking-up.—The third was on Feb. 22. The hares this time were Scott and Tubb. The course was from Whitehall, by Hillmorton to Lilbourne, thence to Calthorpe and Tripontium, and home by Clifton. These Paper Chases evidently are of good, if they do but lead fellows to train for the long races, and deserve every support if they do not come off the same day as the weekly football Big-Side.

### FOOTBALL.

There have been several voluntary Big-Sides, which, chiefly owing to the superior attractions of Running, Racquets, and Fives, have been thinly attended. The first match was Barby *v.* Hillmorton, which was won by Hillmorton by two goals to none, the first being kicked by Scutter, and the second by Westfeldt. The Three B.'s *v.* the School was then begun, in which the School kicked a goal.

On Saturday a match was played against a team brought down by J. E. Lloyd (Trinity, Cambridge). When all had arrived,

it was found to consist of but 12; emergencies, however, were easily found from the School. The match was played in Reynolds' Field; School won the toss and chose the lower goal, there being a considerable wind. From the very beginning the School had the best of it, and penned their adversaries nearly the whole time. Lloyd made a good run in, but being far from the goal and a high wind blowing, the try was not successful. After this, Tobin mi., Badger, and Gardner successively ran in, but still no goal was kicked until Badger got fairly in between the posts, and a goal was kicked by Yardley. The match throughout was a most enjoyable one, and we hope they will continue next season. The victory for the School may be mainly attributed to their first-rate play behind the scrummage.

MR. LLOYD'S TEAM. SCHOOL TWENTY.

J. E. Lloyd.	A. B. Haslam.
W. J. Dixon.	A. W. Rowden.
J. Collins.	C. W. Kennedy.
A. Cordery.	J. Graham.
A. Davenport.	J. T. Soutter.
J. D. Nicol.	A. Gray.
T. De la Rue.	F. Tobin mi.
A. Smythies.	F. Tobin ma.
J. Hoole.	K. R. Fletcher.
C. J. Peile.	G. R. Westfeldt.
H. Lee Warner.	W. Yardley.
J. S. Phillpots.	S. P. Bucknell.
*V. Ellis.	T. G. Hare.
*W. E. Kough.	H. Badger.
*I. C. Lambert.	A. H. Hudson.
*J. S. Masterman.	A. S. Reynolds.
*E. E. Montagu.	A. Lloyd.
*E. H. Morris.	H. W. Gardner.
*F. J. Selous.	G. Botfield.
*W. Welsh.	F. G. Cholmondeley.

\* Emergencies.

The Lizard is dead.

Mr. Speke is not an Old Rugbeian.

The Rugby Scratch Fours at Cambridge will be rowed on Saturday next.

Mr. W. Lee Warner has been elected Secretary of the Union Society for the present term.

We are sorry to find that no Rugbeian has obtained a place in the Oxford Boat this year: only one, R. W. Hanbury, was in the Trial Eights. At Cambridge W. J. Pinckney still rows stroke, but it is uncertain how long he will continue in that place. A. G. Kirby has been compelled to give way.

In the College Athletic Games at Oxford the following Rugbeians distinguished themselves:—

CORPUS:—

- R. W. Hanbury, 2nd in Throwing the Hammer.  
1st in Half-mile Handicap.
- D'A. B. Collyer, (80 yds. start) 1st in Half-mile Handicap.

UNIVERSITY:—

- W. Hedley ..... 1st in Throwing the Hammer.
- R. G. Venables, 2nd in 100 yds.
- R. B. Wilson ... 1st in Throwing Cricket Ball.

LINCOLN:—

- A. Cordery ..... 1st in High Jump.
- G. E. Steward... 2nd in ditto.  
2nd in 440 yds.  
3rd in two miles race.
- W. F. Thompson, 1st in Throwing the Hammer.  
1st in Throwing the Cricket Ball (105½ yds.)
- E. S. Morgan ... 1st in two miles race.

At Cambridge not much has been done in the Athletic line, viz., three College Sports.

AT ST. JOHN'S:—

- W. Lee Warner, 1st in Throwing the Hammer.  
1st in High Jump.  
2nd in Hurdle Race.
- A. W. Lambert, 1st in Broad Jump (19ft. 1½in.)  
1st in 100 yds.  
1st in Hurdle Race.  
1st in Quarter of a Mile (open to Volunteers).  
2nd in Quarter of a Mile.

This Gentleman also won a cup, value £15, given by 3rd Trinity Club, for half-mile Stranger's Race.

AT MAGDALEN:—

- A. W. Lambert, 1st in Quarter of a Mile Stranger's Race.
- J. F. Hoole, 2nd in Consolation Race.

We are not aware of any Rugbeians at St. Peter's.

We hear that owing to many impediments which inevitably come in the way of arranging new matches, the challenges of Cheltenham and Rossall have been declined. We are very sorry that this should have been necessary, as it is high time that all prejudices should be abolished in such matters.

A rumour has reached us that it has been proposed to play the Cricket Match v. Marlborough here. Of course we are not yet in a position to speak with any certainty, nor do we feel it necessary to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of such a step, but we think it right to give our readers all the information we possess ourselves.

The School Steeplechases are, we believe, to be run on Thursday, the 4th. We believe that the course fixed upon is the same as that of last year.

The information which we gave in our last number, with respect to Mr. George Melly proves erroneous; instead of waiting till next general election, Mr. Melly has been returned member for Stoke-upon-Trent.

Our readers will doubtless remember that by the Rules framed by the committee of the Racquet Club, three weeks were to elapse before any challenge could take place under the new system. The time has now elapsed. We have heard as yet of but few challenges.

**THE TORPIDS OXFORD.**—The following Old Rugbeians have places in their respective College boats. H. R. Poole, Ch. Ch. (1); L. H. West, Ch. Ch. (2); D'A B. Collyer, C. C. C.; E. S. Morgan, G. E. Steward, and A. Cordery, Lincoln; H. K. Cook, Trinity; G. A. Were, New.

At Harrow the system of allowing Racquets with india-rubber soft balls to be played on the Rugby Five Courts, works so well that Rugby Fives is never played on them, in spite of the rule which is in force there, viz., "that any fellow who wishes to play Hand-fives may turn off another who is playing Racquets."

We have been in hourly expectation of receiving an enquiry from some anxious correspondent for the reason why the well-known practice of running round the close has not yet begun. Is it that our distinguished runners are confining themselves to exercise on the roads? or does that careful training exist only in the imaginations of those who insisted on the Athletics being transferred to this Term? In default of such a correspondent, we will venture ourselves to make the enquiry.

We see, by the last number of the *Field*, that the Football Association has added largely this year to its ranks. At the annual meeting held at the end of last month, a considerable addition was made to the committee of the association, which now includes Old Etonians, an Old Harrovian, an Old Westminster, and an Old Carthusian, besides members of several leading football clubs. By this it would seem that there is much more probability than formerly of a set of rules being adopted all over the country.

An idea has been started, that a select number of Big-Side runners and jumpers should go by train by Crick, or some station seven or eight miles from Rugby, and thence take their course home. The plan has its advantages, as we should in that case be out of the reach of the oft-exasperated farmers who live in the immediate neighbourhood of Rugby. But it seems to us to have been brought forward rather late, as Cricket is proposed for next Saturday. And moreover, we have not yet heard how the coats of the members of Big-Side are to be conveyed home.

The Examiners for the Pickwick Prize have issued the subjoined list. Marks.

	Maximum 400.
Kennedy .....	257
Foster mi.....	204
Cholmondely .....	176
Lambert .....	144
Tobin terts.....	116
Gilbert .....	94
Allison .....	90
Ellis mi.....	74
Goldschmidt.....	66
Lawson.....	54
Ormerod .....	48
Shirley .....	24
Ralli .....	8

The organ fund progresses slowly. From the perpetual flux in which the particles, which constitute the world of Rugby, exist, it is natural that such a movement should lose the aid of its first authors and promoters. And such has been to great extent the case. It may not, then, be out of place to give a reminder to the leaders of the Choir and of the School generally that it devolves on them to continue the work which their predecessors in office began; and to the Rugby world generally that such a work is in every way worthy of support, and ought, in spite of all difficulties, whether pecuniary or otherwise, in spite of Athletic allowances, and House-games allowances, in spite of new and more engaging interests, to be kept up.

Rugby has heard a good deal of the Education Commission which has been sitting for several years past. Some of the facts, however, which have been brought to light by its investigation may still be new to some of our readers. The following was the condition of some of the Schools which the Com-

missioners examined:—Hanley Castle, endowment £247 per annum, educates 40 boys; one half the number however are, at 20 years of age, unable to read or write. Penwortham, endowment £966 per annum, has 20 grammar boys. Butterwick, endowment £312, has two learning the declensions. Humberstone, with £737 a year, has five or six. Bosworth, with £1,120 a year, has three boys learning grammar!

THE VERY LAST OF THE HAT QUESTION.

COSMOPOLITAN :—

- “ Seedy new fellow, wandering about in  
Cloister or School-quad, miserably seeking  
What to do next, I want a little conver-  
sation with you, please!
- “ Tell me, new fellow! how came you to wear hats?  
Do the big brutes tyrannically use you,  
Make you wear tall hats, laugh at your tears, and  
Piteous remonstrance?
- “ Weary new fellow, little think the proud swells,—  
Who in their straw hats stroll about the streets and  
Close,—what hard work 'tis walking all day long in  
Chimney-pot hats, O!
- “ I am a Cosmopolitan, and you, too,  
Did you but know it, are a Cosmopoli-  
tan, and you therefore ought to wear a straw hat,  
Ribbon included.
- “ Look at my tears, a trembling on my eyelids;  
Tell me your tale, the *Meteor* shall have it,—  
There shall you see it, beautifully printed,  
All for a sixpence!”
- NEW FELLOW :—
- “ Sixpence, God bless you! I have none to give, sir:  
Only last night they cleaned me out of every  
Sixpence I had, sir, for (I think they said) the  
Little-Side Raquets.
- “ Hats are a plague,—they knock 'em off and kick them;  
Only this morning, going into lesson,  
This poor old hat (for old it looks, sir, now,) was  
Scrunched in a scrimmage.
- “ Still I don't mind much,—theirs have been as seedy,  
And the next lot's will be as bad; and, please sir,  
I should be glad to spend the little coin you  
Mentioned, at Hobley's.”

COSMOPOLITAN :—

- “ Hobley's! *O mores!* I will see you far first!  
Wretch! whom no sense of wrong can rouse to  
grumble!  
Sordid, unfeeling, reprobate, degraded,  
Spiritless outcast!”

[Exit Cosmopolitan, knocking off new fellow's hat in  
a rage.]

HOUSE NEWS.

SCHOOL-HOUSE.

A “Below Caps” v. Hutchinson's was commenced on Feb. 8th, on which day the School-House obtained a touch-down, after a good run in by Shirley. The match was resumed on Feb. 15th, when the School-House again obtained a touch-down and a try, which was, however, again missed. For the School-House we may mention Sidgwick (forward) and Vecqueray ma. (half-back) as deserving especial notice; while for Hutchinson's, Machinlay (back) played well.

This House has had three Paper-chases this Term,—on Feb. 11th, Feb. 20th, and Feb. 27th.

On Feb. 24th there was Brook-leaping, in which the House was joined by Tobin mi. (Blake's) and Bennett (O.R.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Contributions will be received at the *Advertiser* Office, or at Mr. Pepperday's, under cover to the “Editor of the *Meteor*.”

To the Editor of the *Meteor*.

SIR,—The difficulties of taking Fives-courts by running are and always have been great.

Running from calling-over was prolific in disorder and disputes. The story of its abolition is historical. A certain head of the school, short and corpulent, whom not even the burning suns of India have been able to prevent growing more corpulent, and more short, at least of wind, insisted on ten yards start, and answered his name from the fives-court. The calling-over Master naturally objected. A deity interveled of no less gravity than Dr. Goulburn, and the Sixth had to give up scudding and take by seniority. Big-Side, I believe, was not consulted, it being thought that the Sixth could not all be so fat as to be outrun by the XX.

Here, for the first time, scudding succumbed; and therefore the rule I am attacking having thus yielded before, may do so again. The taking of courts after other epochs than calling-over—such as dinner, or second lesson—is further complicated by the start being either not at the same time, or not from the same place, or neither.

The ambiguities of these questions lead to a constitutional struggle, fiercely contested on both sides, soon after Dr. Temple came, which could only be determined by again

bringing down the deity from his machine, with two minor deities as his assessors. Into the merits of this fearful question I dare not enter. Why should I dig up the buried tomahawk? Even in these cosmopolitan days it might yearn for a scalp, though the enemies' bright blade have become a lancet, and his war horse prance in the hunting-grounds of the rising sun. I would not for worlds give the slightest clue to the heroes of that conflict.

Since that date the racquet court has introduced the rule of the Universities, where a court can be taken beforehand, at the very least the day before. In this case, every one knows when he is to have a court, and can select the best possible three to play with him. Is it impossible to have a slate somewhere on which fives-courts also can be taken beforehand, say the day before? If the Sixth cling to their right of seniority—which, indeed, is but a right of some thirteen years' standing—they might still have the courts after callings-over reserved to them. Into the time and place of taking I do not enter; there will be difficulties in arranging them equitably, I fully expect, but could not that racquet court committee knock out a few more rules? Vested interests will no doubt oppose: but fair play is a jewel more valued by Rugbeians than the most antique, most traditional injustice.

As the girl said to the serpent, "Whatever you do, eat fair."

Yours obediently,

A FIVES PLAYER.

Whether other things—as grounds for cricket or football,—should follow suit, is another question. The two points might be settled differently.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR, — Although your correspondent "A. M." is, I think, right in theory, there is one very valid objection to his proposed place of starting. After even a moderate amount of rain, I'm afraid the authorities would justly complain of nine or ten fellows racing exactly across the best pitch on Big-Side; and if this took place every day, even in dry weather, the result could not be otherwise than bad for the ground. I should suggest that instead of a common starting-point for all objects, each object should have its own starting-point. This would prevent

too great a crowd starting at once from one point. Thus, for instance, fellows who wished to get "Ends" might start from the Doctor's wall; while those who wanted Fives Courts, might start from the path by the island; or, if they wanted the covered Courts, they might start from "A. M.'s" point, the School Bath. By this arrangement, none of the running for Fives Courts, which, of course, dry much quicker than the ground, would be over cricket ground; while, if the ground was very wet, there would be no cricket in the Close, and therefore no running for "Ends." This seems to be a better arrangement than "A. M.'s," though I have no doubt, that somebody will be able to suggest some still better plan than

NOBODY.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Why should the head of the School House be allowed to take Bat-fives Court after dinner every day? Has the head of the School House a stronger right to one single hour of Bat-fives, much less to nine of the best hours, than a Moberlyite, when the payments of both have been precisely equal? Surely, Sir, he has a right. It is a custom, and why should it be abolished, and has it not worked very well? and why should not the Arnoldites continue to exercise their privilege of taking Hand-fives Courts after dinner? That is one advantage of the situation of the House. Dear me, Sir, cannot we leave the thing alone?

I am, yours obediently,

H. J.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

DEAR SIR,—It was with much pleasure that I read in your last number "Dol. (o.r's)" letter concerning our present system of awarding the School athletic cup.

I think, however, that while noticing one fault he has overlooked another: while showing that our arrangement is faulty as regards the number of points to be gained by two competitors in the same race, he has entirely omitted to touch on the comparative value of competitions which count for the cup. Now, Sir, it seems to me absurd that two or three straight drops with a football should

count as much as winning the mile. "Dol. (o.r.)," in his letter, entered on the different classes of grumblers, and most objectionable all such persons are, but it is not fair to call anyone who points out a fault and shows how it may be removed a grumbler; and, as I do desire to come under that head, I must even try and find a solution to our difficulty, though the task is a hard one.

(1.) Let the different races be valued, and let the most important, such as the mile, the 100 yards, and single racquets, count 3 points, the bulk of the other contests 2 points, and the unimportant ones, such as the dropping, placing, 1 point.

(2.) Let a selection be made from our present list, and let a few contests count for the cup; these should of course be as different as possible, so as to give all an equal chance.

In both these suggestions I think that "Dol. (o.r.'s)" proposal for counting in the same race could be advantageously adopted.

Let not any one imagine that I think my proposals cannot be bettered. I am quite aware of their many weak points, and hope many improvements may be made on them before a new system is adopted; still I think that even they would be better than our present system of managing the athletics. Hoping to be freely criticised in your next number,

I remain, Sir,

Yours most obediently,

C. HANGE.

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*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Several letters appeared in your last number, on the subject of the Athletics, and everyone must agree with your correspondents that something ought to be done.

One step has already been taken towards quickening the pace of the mile; all must allow it to be a move in the right direction. It was formally proposed, seconded and carried *nem. con.*, as the majority of your readers probably already know, that the mile should be run this year upon the high road. There can be no doubt that the change will be greatly beneficial. Two of your correspondents in your last number complain, most justly I consider, of the unfair manner

in which things count for the cup. One of them, "Equity," suggests that previous winners may run as often as they like, and if he win that he count those winnings *again* to the cup, but that he may not take the prize a second time. All this I think is perfectly just and to the point. The proposal I am about to make is to the same effect but goes a little further; it was suggested to me by a master the other day,—one who takes a lively interest in the proceedings of the School, not only from a master's point of view, but also from an Old Rugbeian's: it is as follows:—"That the Cup be obtained, merely for what is done on the ground, during the two days of the Athletics; that things once won be entirely done with after the year in which they are won, and should not go on accumulating, year after year, as long as a fellow stops in the School, as is the case at present; that all Racquets, Hand-fives, Bat-fives, Steeple-chases, Dropping, Placing, &c., in fact everything that takes place at a different time to the Athletics, have nothing whatever to do with the Cup, but that *everyone* be allowed to go in for *everything* year after year, whether he be a previous winner or not." This I should think all will allow to be quite fair. It will not only give the *best man* a chance of winning the Cup each year, the best man of the year,—as at present is not always the case; it will not only increase the chance of deserving merit carrying off the Cup altogether by winning it three years in succession, which is scarcely possible as matters now are, but it will also give the spectators a chance of seeing the *best man* win, which now often is not the case really, in fact in some instances even the *third* best wins, while the other two who are better than himself are actually on the ground, alive and sound in wind and limb. It scarcely shows us up in our true colours for the name and time of the third best man to be set before the public, who, not knowing the real state of affairs, naturally suppose we are worse at Athletics than other Public Schools. I think a previous winner should not take the prize a second time, as nearly, if not quite all that run, do so more for the honour of the thing, than for "filthy lucre." If this proposal should ever be adopted, another Cup might be started for proficiency in the rest of the things, viz., for winners of Single Racquets and Hand-fives, Bat-fives, &c.,—in fact for all that does not take place at the Athletics, or that did not count for the Cup.

With regard to the matter of the races being so crowded, as mentioned by your correspondent "Dol. (O.R.)" in your last number, would it not be as well for all the most interesting events to be got over first and without hurry, during the regular Athletic days, and for such events as "Throwing the Cricket Ball," "Putting the Stone," and the innocent and harmless (except for the bystanders who get too much in the line of fire, or push too eagerly against the net), but to say the least of it rather tedious operation of "Pecking at the Wicket," be deferred to some other day, say to the following half-holiday, between dinner and calling over? Of course if there was any spare time on the Athletic days, they might be got through there and then, but I think it a pity that the more interesting events should be hurried over for those that require no change of raiment, or "apparatus." I am afraid my subject has grown, as I proceeded, more than I originally intended, so with numerous apologies for trespassing on your valuable space, and your readers' patience,

I beg to sign myself, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

AQUILA.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

DEAR SIR,—Though I agree with "Dol. (O.R.)" that the arrangements of the School Athletics are bad, I cannot support him in his notion of allowing winners to gain the same race a second time. This would certainly bar a great number of entries, but would it not at the same time deaden the spirit of the thing. A fellow would say "Z. won the 100 yards last year most easily; it is nonsense to run against him if he is allowed to run again." This, I fancy, would be the general complaint, and spoil the Games. Though I disagree with "Dol. (O.R.)" in this general point, I certainly think he is right in his notion of the Cup points. My plan would be that "no one be allowed to count the second of a race, if he has gained the first in the same race." This would be very fair, and is, I see, the plan proposed by "Equity."

As regards the arrangements, I consider them bad in every way. First, because there are too many privileged persons inside the ropes. And this leads to my second, that

these persons get in the way of the Stewards, and last, not least, the spectators. The old rule used to be "that there be clearers of the course, and that these be the Heads of the different Houses." This is an old rule (published in the Rules of 1857) and no innovation. Probably the Sixth may grumble at this proposal, but if this was a rule in 1857, why should it not hold good and useful in 1868? So I would suggest "that no one be allowed inside the ropes but the Stewards and clearers of the course." This would greatly increase the comfort of the spectators, as well as lessen the arduous duties of the Stewards.

I certainly think that no entrance-money ought to be exacted, as by rule 2 "the expenses of the Games are defrayed by a uniform tax of not less than two shillings on the whole School." This is done in the Houses by "docking" the allowances, so perhaps your correspondent "Dol. (O.R.)" may not be aware of such. I consider a guinea a very fair prize for most races, though the mile deserves more, because therein the notion of expenditure of toil shows itself. Well, Sir, the first in that race *does* get more than other firsts.

Let me further add that running-shoes greatly assist the "ped." and jumper.

Yours faithfully,

OLD JOHN CROSS.

Oxford, March 3rd, 1868.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As I lay basking in the sun the other day, I suddenly discovered a large piece of paper lying on my best pitch. A small boy in L. M. I. passed by just then, so I asked him to pick it up, and see what it was. He kindly did so and told me it was the *Meteor*. I did not know what that meant, though I remember that a lot of fellows kept walking over me one night about a year and a half ago and talking of *Meteors*. The small boy explained that it was a paper and offered to read it to me. As you may suppose I was much edified, though I could not understand it all; but there was one letter which I understood only too well and which made every blade of grass on my body stand

bolt upright, I mean that of "A. M." in proposing that the fellows should start from the School Bath to run for Fives' Courts; why by so doing they will make a path right over my best pitches! I remember that the slate was removed from the Racquet Court to Diver's in order to preserve the wasted frame of my aged relative over the way, and surely I am of more consequence than she is! I beg and entreat of you, Mr. *Meteor*, to raise your voice in the matter, and lay me under an everlasting obligation. Written by the aforesaid small boy, at the dictation of

NEW BIG-SIDE.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—The first thing that struck me on reading your correspondent "Dike's" letter in your last number, was, the utter absurdity of his arguments (if such they may be called). He requests that you would "kindly allow him space to ask, why the R. C. should include members of the XI. and XXII. without regard to the fact whether they play Racquets or not." The simple answer to that enquiry is, that the Stewards who were appointed as a Committee for making new rules about Racquet-playing, were not only obliged to choose those who they *knew* to be the best players (as the number in that case would have been so small), but were also obliged to choose those who they thought would make good players with practice. For that reason they naturally turned to cricket, as being most likely to supply the needed material. "Dike" says "he cannot see that cricket has anything to do with Racquets." Evidently "Dike" is no cricketer from the fact of this absurd remark; but he adds greatly to the absurdity by coolly asking, "Why should not the Club as well include all the *Caps*?" It is now my turn to ask, I flatter myself with a little more reason than "Dike"—what has *Football* to do with Racquets? The answer is obvious. Nothing whatever. I *do* assert, however, that *Cricket* has a great deal to do with Racquets, it has much in common with Racquets. In both games the skill depends upon the *eye* and the arm of a player; whereas in *Football* the skill depends almost entirely upon the *legs*. This I believe to be sufficient argument in favour of the choice of the Committee. I am sorry that

matters are not arranged more to the satisfaction of "Dike." I presume he is not a member of the R. C. or he would not be so ready to pull it to pieces. I beg to draw his attention to rule 4 made by the Committee (there was a copy of the rules published in your last number which he might easily refer to, and there is also a copy at the Racquet Court), and to suggest that he challenge one of those members of the R. C., whom he considers wrongfully in the Club to the exclusion of such as himself; and I venture to prophecy, that if his Racquet-playing be no better than his arguments, he will have a poor chance of beating him, even though he should be one of those "who have never been on the Court."

Wishing "Dike" luck in his game in the case of such a challenge, and apologizing for intruding so much upon your valuable space.

I remains, Sir, yours,

ST. E. WARD.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

DEAR SIR,—It was with great pleasure that I hailed the appearance of a School Twenty, for the second time, in the field last month, and now that it seems to have become almost an institution, I think that some steps ought to be taken towards the legislation of it, as in the case of the XI. Though it is rather late for this sort of suggestion, still it might be of use to take the matter into consideration before next football season. Why should not the Twenty be made up regularly every year, whether they play matches or not? By this means Big-sides would hold out more attractions to the Caps, who would know that on their distinguishing themselves in those matches depended their chance of getting—I had almost said their colours. And, *apropos* of that, why should not the XX. wear a particular ribbon, as well as the XI. and XXII.? Hoping you will excuse any errors,

Believe me yours,

S. P. Q. B.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—In an early number of the *Meteor* a correspondent signing himself "Monomaniac of an hour," proposed starting Boating Races on the Canal. No notice was taken of this letter at the time, but as the idea really seemed to me a good one, I am resolved to call the attention of the public to it again. Your correspondent acknowledged that there would be difficulties to overcome, but surely, Sir, no amount of trouble, however great, would be misspent if it resulted in the formation of a Boating Club. I do not intend to go into the *pros* and *cons* of the question, I merely venture to bring the subject again before the eyes of the public.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

S. M. ALL BOY.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

February 11th.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me, through your columns, which have already effected many improvements in the School, to ask a question. Why should not puntabout go on this Term, in which there is so little to do? I am sure the greater part of the School would be exceedingly glad of it.

Believe me, Sir, yours,

PUNTABOUT.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Numerous suggestions have been made, in your columns and elsewhere, for the amendment of the intoning in Chapel. Would not ten minutes devoted to intoning occasionally, at Choir practices and under the experienced guidance of Mr. Edwards, have the desired effect? We have had sufficient proof that the choir do not mean to acquire the art by the light of nature.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

MONOTONE.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—As a constant attendant at the School Chapel Service, I wish to ask a single question. Are the responses, &c., in the Chapel Service intended to be intoned or not? At present, a sort of midway system seems to have been adopted, and to be followed.

Is not this, Sir, a great blot on the improvement which has been undoubtedly effected in this respect?

The news that the question has been settled one way or the other, will be exceedingly grateful to your obedient servant,

MUSICUS.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Toujours gai." We have given place to one poetical effusion, and poetical effusions ought to be avoided.

"A. B." The Athletics, you will learn, are already fixed for this Term.

"Barby Road." To our knowledge, not once.

"Horace." You should make sure that your facts are correct before you write such an epistle.

"Z, 26." We should advise you not to be too forward.

The School House Steeple Chases were held on the 2nd of March; winners of the Open to all:—Lyon, Field, ma. (equal), Warner 3rd. This was a splendid race, the winners changing places every minute, and ended in a dead heat.—The Steeple Chase (under 5ft. 4 in.)—1st, Westfield, mi.; 2nd, Field, mi.; 3rd, Ringrose.

Mr. Wilson's House Steeple Chase was held on Tuesday last; the result being:—1st, Lloyd, 2, Francis.—The Steeple Chase (under 5ft. 4in.)—1st, Benham.