



The Meteor.

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It is quite a year ago since the question of placing a new organ in the School chapel was raised. It was felt then that as we were celebrating the Tercentenary of the School, and everybody all around was doing what all Englishmen do on all celebrations and anniversaries, viz., subscribing, that the members of the School themselves might well do something of the same kind. The feeling resulted in a determination to replace the effete organ of the School Chapel by a thoroughly good new one. Our readers will remember that the estimate of Messrs. Willis, the great organ builders, amounted to £1,000. Of this it was agreed the School should raise £600, the remainder being derived from other sources, in a great measure from the salaries of the old paid choir contributed by the Headmaster. The method adopted was,—that three allowances a term should be paid by each house. The product of this has been,—£180 deposited in the bank to the credit of the Rugby School Chapel Organ Fund. But amid the pressure of Athletic allowances last term, and from a variety of causes, it has been found that three allowances was more than some houses could contribute. So about a week ago it was resolved to diminish the House subscriptions to the organ by a half, *i.e.*—to make them $1\frac{1}{2}$ allowances per term. It will be scarcely necessary to inform our readers that the result of this change is,—that if the organ fund is to be raised within anything like the same time, much more must be done, individually and voluntarily, than before. The present seems, then, a fit time for making something of an appeal to the Rugby public.

And, firstly, let us assure our readers of the necessity of a change. Naturally, in a thing like an organ, our proofs of deficiency cannot be directly evident to the eyes of the general public. Those who plead for a new chapel can point to cracks in the wall, crowded benches, &c., and everyone can appreciate the force of such arguments as these; but we can assure our readers the deficiency is none the less really great. One of the best judges in the country, we believe, pronounced our organ to be one of the worst instruments he knew. It is true that by the great talent and cleverness of our organist pleasing sounds and effects are produced Sunday after Sunday; but we have heard, on good authority, that he complains continually of the restraints imposed on him by the rottenness and badness of his instrument. Another point is that this organ cannot be mended. It is, speaking medically, an incurable. It is tolerably certain that the need for a change will only increase as time goes, and soon become absolutely pressing. Would it not be right to make this change, then, at the time when the chapel is restored? Let us say a word or two about the scheme proposed. Our readers must remember that in an organ fund the last hundred pounds is a very important matter: what we mean is,—the contributions of a couple of terms will make the difference between having a fair organ and having a first-rate organ, one of which the School may be justly and for ever proud. The organ which it is proposed to erect, if the liberality of Rugbeians permit, will be in every respect a first-rate instrument—if not the best in the county, certainly second