



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

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THE Cricket week is over. For the last few days a considerable part of the 24 hours has been spent by some as performers, by some as spectators in the close. But it is over, and all that is left us—at least if the grim prospect of Long List in the future does not absorb us entirely, and prevent our having an eye for anything either present or past—is to talk over the doings of the great week, to recount over and over again the fortune which it brought us. And, surely, when the retrospect is so bright, we cannot be better engaged: nor can the *Meteor* do her duty better than in assisting the Rugby public in such pleasant recollections.

Certainly, whatever may be our other functions, to criticise, to reflect, to take deep council, all these must at such a time as this be laid aside, and we must appear in our simple character of chronicler. When every day has brought some fresh festivity, some fresh excitement, or some fresh deed of prowess in the field, our readers may justly claim that we should tell our tale simply, as a plain, though delightful, matter of history, without stopping to draw any recondite moral upon it.

Enough, then, we have said in these remarks. Let us to our duty: only adding our hearty congratulations to the Rugby public in general at the good fortune which has attended us in the last week, our heartfelt thanks to all, whether masters or boys, who have contributed to make the past week the bright time that it is to look back upon, and—just one word more—let us add a hope that Rugby may always have eleven as

goodly sons to represent her in the cricket field as have done so in the past week.

MR. POPE has endeavoured to console nervous humanity with the reflection that

“Whatever is, is right,”

and if we could but persuade ourselves of the truth of this sentiment, with our deep love of moral rectitude, we should at once advocate a state of quiescent immutability. But such is not the case; and the battle-cry of Grievance or Retrogression is ever stirring us up to a state of friendly antagonism to the Present. Now there is one subject which we have never yet had occasion to attack, though it has often been brought under our notice by aggrieved Old Rugbeians. They tell us that the Speeches are far more tame than they were formerly. The happy prizemen take no sort of interest in the proceedings. We are not speaking now of the recitation of those speeches or dialogues which are extracted from classical authors, whether modern or ancient—though here we think there is every room for improvement—but we allude only to the recital of the prize compositions. We are told by an Old Rugbeian, and one to whose advice we should pay as much attention as to anybody, that in his day the prizemen always bowed to the Headmaster as a kind of polite acknowledgment on receiving their prizes. But this custom may have been swept away as a relic of those semi-barbarous days when sons called their fathers by the dignified appellation of Sir. Be that as it may, there is one

point on which we entirely agree—that a change to the old system ought to be enforced. The winners of prizes used always to *recite*, and not to *read* their productions. In the case of the English, Latin, and Greek verse this was the rule only five years ago. Why the custom should have been dropped no one can tell. No one will allow that the change is for the better. The effort of learning by heart verses which have already taken their poet-authors some time to evolve, cannot be very difficult. Much more life is thus infused into the proceedings: the compositions are much more likely to be heard and understood: while the laziness and indifference of the author receives a salutary check. We sincerely hope that next year fellows will take the trouble to learn their productions by heart, and not read them in a tone so dull and monotonous that nobody can tell what language they are reading.

THE SPEECHES.

On Saturday week the annual Speeches were held in the Great School. We were glad to see that the example of last year was followed in this respect, and the Speeches held in the middle of the term instead of at the end, as on previous occasions. Besides securing the attendance of a large number of Old Rugbeians, from the fact of the Old Rugbeian cricket match having been played on the two days previously, a far larger number of the school were present than usual. The speeches were, as a whole, very good: the acting in some pieces was quite first-rate, and throughout showed great pains and energy. Perhaps we may be allowed to make a criticism on a subject above our notice: we fear some of the extracts read by the prizemen were rather too long. Few things, doubtless, are more edifying and grateful to hear to the classical mind than Latin Prose; but the less educated mind is apt to grow weary after a very short spell of such compositions. We give a programme of the speeches and dramatic performances below, from which our readers may learn the names of the prizemen and actors. One feature in the recitations, &c., deserves especial notice, and the highest commendation on those who introduced it: we mean French and German speeches. It must have caused wonder, we think, to many a visitor at our School speeches before, that at a school like Rugby—which has the reputation

among all Public Schools of being the most extended in its curriculum of study, and of adopting the most modern kinds of reading—Greek, Latin, and English should include all the recitations.

Independently of the novelty, the acting of the modern language pieces was exceedingly good, quite equal to anything in the course of the afternoon. Micholls and Haslam were both excellent in the German, and their acting, perhaps, was only surpassed by that of Soutter in the French.

The scene from the *Rivals* was given uncommonly well: the best, perhaps, being Soutter, who undertook the part at that morning's notice. Masterman, Moberly, and Barnwell entered thoroughly into the wit of *Aristophanes*, as did Rowden of *Sheridan*. The proceedings were introduced by a short speech from Dr. Temple; who concluded by reading the list of honours gained by Rugbeians during the past year, which were as follows:—

1867.—R. W. Ingham, First Class in Classical Moderations, Oxford; E. A. Were, ditto; S. W. Bromfield, First Class in Mathematical Moderations, Oxford; B. E. Hammond, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; W. D. Allen, Demyship of Magdalen College, Oxford; J. B. Haslam, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge; H. G. Hart, ditto, ditto; F. J. Jayne, First Class in Law and History, Oxford; A. Cordery, First Class in Classical Moderations, Oxford; T. Case, First Class Final Classical School, Oxford. 1868.—A. Barratt (late Scholar of Balliol College) elected to Open Fellowship, Brasenose College, Oxford; T. Case (Commoner of Balliol College) ditto, ditto; J. A. Godley, Hertford Scholar, Oxford; G. H. West, Miss Burdett Coutts' Geological Scholarship, Oxford; S. Haslam, First Class, Classical Tripos, Cambridge; J. S. Masterman, Open Scholarship, Corpus Christi College, Oxford; F. J. Jayne, Clerical Fellowship, Jesus College, Oxford; C. J. Peile, Foundation Scholarship, Trinity College, Cambridge; H. L. St.-Barbe-Browne, Open Classical Scholarship, Brasenose College, Oxford; H. Theobald, Taylorian Scholarship (German with French) Oxford; J. S. Parkin, Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge; J. A. Baines, D. O. Meiklejohn, and A. B. Steward, Indian Civil Service; T. G. W. Dymock, English Scholarship, King's College, London; W. E. Hart, Foundation Scholarship, St. John's College, Cambridge; G. L. Bennett, ditto; J. S. Chamberlain, ditto; A. A. Bourne, Exhibition at St. John's College, Cambridge; W. Phipson, First Class in Law and Modern History, Oxford; F. Baynes, Exhibition at St. John's College, Cambridge.

Then were delivered the Speeches, in the following order:—

I.—Essay for the Queen's Medal—"Comparison of the English and French Revolutions."

HON. F. H. BARING.

II.—From the *Hippolytus* of Euripides.

GORDON *Theseus*.
LOMAX *Hippolytus*.

III.—Latin Essay—"Oratores veteres cum recentioribus comparantur."

L. F. BARNWELL.