

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,—I had always imagined that the *Meteor* was a paper designed for the friendly interchange of sentiments among Past and Present Rugbeians, and not for the bandying of hard epithets. Your correspondent "Scrutator" seems to think otherwise, and I can only hope that the spirit of his letter has not met with the approbation of many of your readers. If he wishes to transform the *Meteor* into a polemical magazine, I can tell him that he has set the right way to work; and I would only advise him to reflect whether he is not more likely than most people to lose by a contest in which quarter is neither given nor taken. The style and the arguments of my letter are of course fair game for his criticism. I sincerely trust that I can stand without finching the fire of his very small shot. I hope he felt unbounded satisfaction in delivering himself of his courteous remarks. I tender my humblest thanks to him for his surpassing condescension in declining to be "too hard" upon me. And, if I do not follow his example, I can assure him it is most certainly not because I consider either the matter or the manner of his epistle to be above criticism.

"Scrutator" seems to object to my definition of the races. Does he mean to imply that it is erroneous? I defy him to prove it. Or does he mean that he could give us a more satisfactory definition? Then by all means let us have it. Any definition from his pen would be indeed a treat.

I am told that the opinions I quote are "various and contradictory." The opinions I quoted were the opinions of your correspondents. If, then, the opinion of one correspondent was in contradiction to that of another, the conclusion which would suggest itself to any ordinary mortal, "Scrutator" excepted, is that they were meant to be contradictory. But, "Scrutator" continues: "so constantly does he appear to change his opinions, that it is really hard to arrive at his general drift." Nothing less will content him than to give an instance of my constant change of opinion which is, that I "affect to make light of the 1,760 yards run upon a hard high road." Where is the proof of my "constant change of opinion"? That

I affect to make light of the 1,760 yards? Or in my assertion that it is run on a hard high road?

After some further observations, not worth noticing, "Scrutator" finds fault with my remark that toil and energy are needed for perfection in Racquets. I would only observe that what I said on that point has been endorsed by all the Racquet-players I have ever spoken to.

The next point on which "Scrutator" touches is whether Cricket and Football should count for the Cup. He decides in the negative, because "there is no real athletic contest involved." But your correspondent "E" goes to the heart of the matter when he asks what the Cup is given for. He will pardon me if I venture to think that in defining "Athletics" and "Athleticism" he has been drawing a distinction without a difference. Surely "Athletics" and "Athleticism" mean the same thing, viz., "the performances of Athletes;" and "Athlete," according to the etymological signification of the word, denotes "a combatant, or one who contends," though in Greece, as in England, the word was restricted to the special notion of "physical" contention as opposed to "intellectual." It is for this reason that I think Cricketing, Football, &c., ought to count for the Cup. Is not the Cricketer "a combatant as much as the Mile-racer? And is not the Football-player "one who contends" as much as the hurdle-racer? What reason is there (apart from practical difficulties) for excluding the one and including the other?

"Scrutator," indeed, has discovered a most sapient reason. It would (it seems) degrade "such a noble game" as Football to reward excellence in it by making it count for the Cup. Apparently, however, it does not, in "Scrutator's" opinion, degrade such a noble game as Cricket to reward excellence in it by a presentation bat. If this be not inconsistency I know not what is.

This much I am fully prepared to allow, that it would if possible be far nobler to reward all athletic distinctions, as the Greeks rewarded the greatest athletes the world has ever seen, with a simple olive-wreath. Glory and honour ought in all cases to be the ruling motives. But we moderns are not as high-minded as the old Greeks, and therefore we must make the best of our more sordid inclinations. This I contend we shall do if we exalt our Athletic Cup, if we lead fellows to strive to live for posterity and not for the

mere acquisition of guinea and half-guinea pots. The cardinal fault of all Athleticism, such as Running and Jumping, in my opinion is, that it is apt to become personal, selfish, gain-seeking. And I think that it should be our object, to the best of our power, to root out from our School Athleticism all such unworthy motives as these, to teach our Athletes to enter into the feelings of the Greeks of old, who valued their paltry wreath, withered as soon as won, more highly than the most costly gifts of conqueror and king, and who were rewarded for their self-abnegation by a deification such as in modern times has rarely been awarded to generals and statesmen.

I will not trouble you with further observations on "Scrutator's" arguments. He wonders why I wrote my letter. I beg to tell him that I was prompted to do so by a motive which will doubtless appear absurdly strange to him,—Patriotism, pure and simple. He wonders how I expected it to be received. As I took time and trouble over it, I certainly did not expect to be rewarded for my labours by unstinted abuse. I expected that what I had written in good part would be read in good part, as I trust it has been by everyone except "Scrutator." And in conclusion, let me assure him that if his object is to damp the enthusiasm of Present and Past Rugbeians for Rugby, he has only to continue the career of malcontent censoriousness which he has so successfully inaugurated.

One word with respect to "E.'s" charge against me. I am afraid that I did not make my meaning with regard to the long running quite clear. What I meant to say was this: there are two courses open, either to keep the Athletic Cup as it is, or to introduce alterations; if the Cup be kept as it is, then I think that the long running counts too high: but if the whole system be changed, if *all* the long running, for instance, counts 10 points, then surely it does not matter whether Hare and Hounds be introduced, provided the sum total of 10 be not exceeded.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

TREBLA.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—There have been times when a few words from an influential mouth, a few notes from a powerful organ of the press, have

turned the current of human events, and have guided the broad stream of history into a channel far other than that in which it would naturally have flowed. Such an hour as this has arrived, and such an organ is, Sir, the *Meteor*.

A letter appeared in your last impression, the tone of which was as juvenile and flip-pant as the principles which it instilled were radically pernicious. I need not say that I allude to that referring to the Pavilion Dinner.

To all the sincere students of human nature, to all the deep thinkers of the present age, the profligate extravagance of the day is simply *appalling*; and to all such it seems evident that the climax of England's prosperity has been reached, and that nothing but certain destruction, more or less rapid, awaits her. Shall we then, by sowing the seeds of a fresh generation of spendthrifts, hasten our country to her unhappy doom? Shall we, in short, pay for the Pavilion Dinner?

I fear, Sir, that, in contemplating the abstract principle, with its deadly results, I have been led away from the consideration of the more important details. To return then, my proposals are few, simple, and practical. Let each visitor pay for his own dinner: let Fell continue to supply water to exhausted batsmen, but at one halfpenny per glass, a very moderate price for so first-rate an article: let strangers be admitted to the Close at a charge of one penny per head (children half-price); and to the Racquet Court at two-pence: and, lastly, I would impose a duty of, say, 13½ per cent. on all fruit or confections hawked, or otherwise traded in, in the Close.

"Tudor" moans piteously under the blows administered to his pride; but surely no blows can be too severe for this, the most unpractical of moral sins. He talks of "*honour*." Will our honour get us scholarships at the Universities? will it make us men of business in the world? Why, Sir, the word is out of place in the mouths of those whose proudest boast is that they belong to a "*nation of shopkeepers*."

Let us, then, fling our honour to the winds, and receive our ignominy and our half-crowns as true economists and men of business should.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

£ s. d.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I think your correspondent "Tudor's" proposal is susceptible of a slight improvement; namely the addition of 1s. to the annual subscription of members of the School, which would raise their contribution to 1s. each Term, and obviate the necessity of calling on the XI., who already contribute largely to the honour of the School. It is the least we can do for them in return to relieve them from this demand, which falls rather heavily on them, and almost imperceptibly on us.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

BELOW XI. & XXII.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"R. S. V. P."—Your letter arrived just too late.

"Joseph."—Your meaning is so delicately couched that we doubt if the proper authorities would guess it.

"Cæsar."—The subject had better be dropped.

Our Rugby readers will be sorry to hear that we are to lose the services of one of the most popular Masters. The Rev. T. W. Jex Blake has been elected Headmaster of Cheltenham College. He will, we need hardly say, carry with him the good wishes of all Rugby to his new sphere of work.

The following Honours have been gained by Old Rugbeians since the Speeches:—J. A. Godley, First Class in Classical Moderations, Oxford; H. S. Theobald, First Class in Classical, and Second Class in Mathematical Moderations, Oxford; S. W. Bromfield, First Class in French Mathematical Scholarships, Oxford; J. Temple, First in order of Merit of Cadets, nominated by the Secretary of State for India.

R. S. R. V.

On Thursday last, June 25th, an XI. went over to shoot a match against the Daventry Corps. Owing to the absence of some members of the proper Wimbledon XI. the Rugby scoring was not quite so good as usual. The result was a victory for the Rugby eleven by 18 points, the Daventry shooting not being very brilliant at 500 yards, though they were ahead at the end of the first range shooting. Score:—

RUGBY.

	200yds.	500yds.	Tl.
Lieutenant Graham	10	5	— 15
Sergeant Humphry	14	11	— 25
„ Penrose	11	13	— 24
Lance-Corporal Stuart-Wortley ..	15	7	— 22
„ Chaplin	9	8	— 17
„ Whiting	14	11	— 25
Private Barratt	10	5	— 15
„ Brocklehurst.....	11	7	— 18
„ Cobham	11	11	— 22
„ Courtenay	9	9	— 18
„ Peel	14	12	— 26
Total.....	128	99	— 227

DAVENTRY.

	200yds.	500yds.	Tl.
Ensign Willoughby	13	11	— 24
Sergeant Marriott	13	7	— 20
„ Barrett	11	7	— 18
Corporal Simpson	13	6	— 19
„ Horne	15	7	— 22
„ Carvell	14	8	— 22
Private Hence	13	5	— 18
„ Burgess	12	10	— 22
„ T. Ashwell.....	11	4	— 15
„ W. Watson.....	12	0	— 12
„ Potter.....	9	8	— 17
Total.....	136	73	— 209