

taken on a line with the Three Trees, but by the good play of Tobin and Gardner, it was again brought near the School goal. Here the scrummage became loose, and Gwyer, who was playing quarter-back, made a very fine dribble to the island side of the Three Trees. Tobin soon after, by a fine run, would have got in had he not been overtaken by Parton. Hutchinson's now drove the ball past the Three Trees to the slope, where it remained some time; and though Gardner made a good run to the 25-yards post on that side, their superior forward play enabled them to work the ball back to the slope, and thence in front of Elsee's goal, when Parton, by a clever drop, gained a goal for his side. Only five minutes remaining, Elsee's kicked off again, but the ball had been driven to the Three Trees before the match was ended. For Hutchinson's Parton and Boyd half-back, Gwyer quarter-back, Sidebotham, Ogilvie ma., and Eddis forward, played best; and for Elsee's, Tobin ma. and Gardner half-back, Gray and Sidgwick forward, distinguished themselves. It was decided by the Committee that the match should be continued on Wednesday, the 9th, but the illness of no less than seven of their Caps preventing Elsee's from playing, they thought it advisable to resign their claims to any further play. Hutchinson's were, therefore, decided to be "Second House."

**BOWDEN SMITH'S v. MOBERLY'S.**—Moberly's won the toss and took the island goal. Bowden Smith's kicked off, and from that time till "no side" was called, penned their adversaries throughout. Early in the game Gardner ran in between the posts, but the try at goal which followed was unsuccessful. Bowden Smith's also had another try and made their adversaries touch the ball down twice. For Bowden Smith's Macmillan, Gardner, Kough, and Baring played well. For Moberly's Garrett, Crossley, and Harrison were most conspicuous.

### THE TWO HOUSES.

The following is a list of the Two Houses since 1854, at which time, we believe, the School House ceased to play the School. We shall be happy if any reader can supply deficiencies or correct mistakes:—

1854. { Rev. R. B. Mayor's,  
      { J. C. Shairp's, Esq.  
      The Two Houses won.

1855. } No record: The Rev. P. B.  
1856. } Smith's was one of the  
      } Houses in 1856.  
1857. { School House,  
      } Rev. G. G. Bradley's.  
      Two Houses kicked a goal.  
1858. { School House,  
      } Rev. C. Evans'.  
Won by the Two Houses by a goal and try.  
1859. 1 { Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's,  
      } Rev. C. Evans'.  
Won by the School by 1 punt-out and 8  
      touches down to 0.  
1860. 1 Rev. C. Evans'.  
      2 Rev. R. B. Mayor's.  
No detailed record; the School had the  
      advantage.  
1861. 1 { School House,  
      } Rev. C. T. Arnold's.  
      No account: the School won.  
1862. 1 Rev. L. F. Burrows',  
      2 Rev. C. E. Moberly's.  
      School won; 2 tries, etc.  
1863. 1 { School House,  
      } Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's.  
      Two Houses kicked a goal.  
1864. 1 School House,  
      2 Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's.  
      No match.  
1865. 1 School House,  
      2 Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's.  
      School got a goal.  
1866. 1 { Rev. C. T. Arnold's,  
      } Rev. C. B. Hutchinson's.  
Ground very bad. School had the advantage.  
1867. 1 School House,  
      2 Rev. T. W. Jex Blake's.  
Ground very bad. School obtained 1 punt-  
      out and 3 touches down.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

We cannot be answerable for the opinions of our correspondents.

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.*

DEAR SIR,—I was glad to see in a recent copy of your valuable paper a hint to the committee to revise and republish the existing book of football rules, and in prospect of their doing so, it would be well if the present custom regarding substitutes in House Matches were thoroughly investigated, and the conclusion come to inserted amongst the other rules. I am perfectly conscious that I am approaching dangerous ground, in pro-

posing any important change in a game which every Rugbeian is so proud of, and guards so jealously from any innovation. But, it will be seen that the change which I propose, is merely a recurrence to a rule which was in force some years ago, and which, never having been repealed, as far as my experience goes, must, I presume, have simply fallen into disuse.

According to the present system a house cannot claim a substitute for a cap, unless he has played a certain amount of football the same term, that is, unless he has become unable to play since the beginning of the season. Now, Sir, the object of substitutes is plainly that a house may play with its *full strength*; else why allow them at all? A cap, then, who has injured himself in the Summer Term, is, in the next term, not longer to be counted as belonging to his House! In the eyes of the committee he is an outcast, a wanderer, fit for nothing but—to umpire at Big-Sides! The house that has taught him the game, has trained him by innumerable Little-Sides, has lastly given him his cap, can no longer gain by his services; its labour is wholly lost! Does not this seem unfair? Or, to put a still more forcible case, does it not seem absurd, that, if a cap breaks an arm over a hedge, or falls suddenly ill, on a Friday, the house should entirely lose his services, while, if he had only waited two days, it might have had a substitute for him the whole term?

I said that all I proposed was simply a return to an old rule. Six or seven years ago (I have it on the authority of an Old Rugbeian of that standing), possibly and probably still later, it was only to new caps that this rule applied. A house could *always* get a substitute for an old cap, if he had ever played at all; while the argument against giving one for a new cap was that, as he had never played side by side with other caps, it was impossible to judge of his standard of play with regard to theirs.

Well! this last argument has a certain amount of force, but when a cap has played a whole term, or even part of a term, alongside with others, it must be allowed that, except in extraordinary cases, he has afforded a sufficient criterion for the committee to judge of his relative worth. Of course cases may happen where one, who was his equal in one year, may shoot forth into unexpected brilliancy, or do just the reverse, in the next; but in that case the committee would use their celebrated "discretionary powers," and not give such an one as a substitute.

I have no doubt, Sir, that there are many objections to this change; indeed, my object in touching the subject, is more to bring under discussion the unfairness of the present system than anything else, and I accordingly hope that any of your correspondents who may differ from me, will not hesitate to express their objections.

It will be said, I'm afraid, that it is now too late in the term to bring this forward. But, Sir, the committee cannot be expected to turn their attention to the rules this term. They will be too much occupied with the House Matches. Next term, however, they will have comparative leisure, and come to the task fresh from the experience of the past term. Between this and then there will be ample time for considering this subject, which, though the final decision of it is, of course, entirely under their control, seems too important a question to be decided without previous publicity. Apologizing for the length to which my letter has grown,

I am, Sir, yours truly, A. Y. Z.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Surely a time when foreign matches and house ties are becoming of yearly increasing interest, is not a time when good play should be obstructed by the yearly increasing selfishness of spectators. Well might middle Rutter sigh for the good old days of Goal, which, bad as they were in many ways, gave a fair field to all.

Is there any reason why the line of touch should not be absolutely kept, as the line of flags is at cricket? It could be easily kept if all the Sixth, and not a few here and there, did their duty, and if the School had the self-denial to back them up. There are many offenders not in the School, but any *gentleman* out of the School would be the last to offend, if it were not rendered impossible for any one to see the game without crossing the touch line.

I do not generally see members of the XXII. standing *en amateur* between the wickets and the back-stop, but a XXII. Riband (if he is not playing) thinks it improves the issue for him to stand in front of a back-player.

By the end of a Match the Sixth generally are warmed up to do something. It is at the outset that scandals are.

This letter may yet be in time to get a fair field for the Two-House Match. If it does it will help to restore the upset equanimity of

AN OLD UMPIRE.

## LOWER MIDDLES.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—I observe that my plea for Lower Middles has extracted two replies. These replies, while agreeing in some respects, are yet so different in their general bearing, that I must ask leave to treat them separately.

I drew attention, you may remember, to the fact that most fellows who leave low in the school and undistinguished are reluctant to return as Old Rugbeians, at least until their generation has passed away. This reluctance is promoted by a certain prevalent sentiment that it is unbecoming in them to revisit us. That sentiment I regard as odious.

"Scotus" rejoins, as far as I understand him, to this effect. The class for whom I plead is very small; very few fellows leave low and unknown; on the whole, Rugby can discern merit, and welcomes it always when discerned; and the cold shoulder is never shown except to such as deserve it.

The first statement, I submit, is neither true nor to the point. It is not true, for if "Scotus" would examine the list he would find that many fellows leave, from one cause or another, without rising high. And it is not relevant; for however few the sufferers, an injustice is an injustice still. I desire that every Rugbeian shall feel, that, return when he may, he will always be welcomed. The bond of common ineffable gratitude to a noble school should wipe out even memory of faults; and far more abrogate all petty distinctions of Classical or Athletic success.

On the second head "Scotus" has mistaken me. I did not mean for a moment that Rugby cannot discern merit. When I spoke of vulgarity, I did not mean the rule but the exception. I was only indignant that while the right to return is accorded, and rightly accorded, to any athletic hero, it is practically denied to many who may be his superiors in all other points. And that this is so I beg most positively to affirm.

Let me assure "Scotus," I do not wish to disenfranchise, but to enfranchise. I would welcome all, except those few whom shame and remorse would naturally keep away; but not least would I welcome the humble and undistinguished.

With my other opponent, "H.," I have less common ground. He has drawn us a picture of the "typical Lower Middle," and like the Irishman's wooden box, "he has made it all out of his own head." The

description, I do not deny, is humorous and smart; but neither have I any hesitation in denouncing it as a reckless and malignant slander.

The root of the matter is not far to seek. He has not the least knowledge of those whom he is so wittily depreciating. If he had, it would be impossible for him to speak in such terms of fellows who, for kindness, gentlemanliness, heartiness, and true attachment to Rugby friends and Rugby institutions, are no whit behind any other section of the School. If I am to speak of the Lower Middle, at least, by real knowledge and appreciation, I am more fitted for the task than "H." is. I have had many a good friend amongst them, and it stings me like a personal attack when I hear them so lightly and so falsely vituperated.

In conclusion, I do not wish to fight against the law of nature. There is a gulf between Upper and Lower boys which will always be hard to pass; and to a certain extent, rightly so. That this gulf has been too wide, I do not doubt any more than I doubt that civilization is diminishing it. But, at least, let the aristocracy of intellect (for such they undeniably are) forbear to malign the Plebs; and, at least, let them heartily and generously encourage them to return without fear or shame to that Alma Mater which sinks all distinctions of rank in the common claim of sonship.

I am, Sir, yours,  
COSMOPOLITAN.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—It was only after much hesitation that I determined to address you on the subject of "Cosmopolitan's" letter in your late impression, so fully do I appreciate the ability with which that gentleman is accustomed to plead his own cause. But finally, considering that I should write from an entirely different point of view, I changed my mind, and here I am.

I was, while in the School, neither high from a scholastic point of view, nor athletically distinguished; I was nameless and unknown; I did not even get my dark blue, or my cap. I am, in short, "Poor Jones," or "That 'pump' Jones;" or otherwise—for I confess those are not the names by which I go in my regiment or in society—Exiguus Jones, Ensign 157th Bengal Fencibles, and your very humble servant. But the point I wish to impress upon such of your readers as

are or may some time be O.R.s of my calibre, is that I,—E. J.,—"poor J."—and so on as above, have been down several times since I left, and have enjoyed myself, I venture to say, as much as any one could do. Indeed, I went down to Rugby with my friend Insignis, he to play, I to watch, a Big-Side. He was quite an awe-inspiring swell when he was in the School, and I believe the visit was pleasanter to me than it was to him. Insignis was in the XI. and had his cap about nine years. I am not sure about the figures, but he was one of that race, now extinct, who gave you the impression of always having had their caps; a notion which *his* bore out, for it looked as if he had been born in it and had not had a new one since. Well, swell as he was, we found that the ripple caused by his disappearance under the surface of the stream of School life, had entirely subsided; that the glow, if I may be permitted to use the expression, of his glorious sun as it sank below the School horizon had entirely faded; and though I. is an excellent fellow, and has not a spark of silly vanity, I don't think he was altogether pleased to find that only some dozen fellows knew who he had been. It is very pleasant at the time to be the observed of all observers, and to be conscious that you can acquit yourself under all the scrutiny; but it is not very pleasant when, recollecting your ancient prowess some fellows come to punt about in order to see one of your famous long drops, to kick your knee very nearly out of joint, laming yourself for a week, and sending the ball straight up above your head some 13 feet withal. As Insignis and I walked down to the station I was anxious to ascertain what impression his visit had made on him. Poor fellow, he was limping dreadfully. He had at first been put half-back as of old, but, the first time he had got the ball, finding he was too heavy for dodging, he had attempted and missed his drop, and, driving his toe furiously into the ground, had lamed himself, and been obliged to go forward. Here a new Cap had hacked him, and being tough, had suffered very little in proportion from I.'s anger; and an old and very heavy Cap had stood for some seconds on his head (on Insignis's, I mean, not on his own), for I. had rather lost the knack of standing up in a scrummage. Altogether he felt the unpleasant consciousness of having fallen off, which, to a greater or less degree is common, I fancy, to a good many athletic swells who come down to Rugby. I.'s school-days were probably the

pleasantest of his life, and he felt, I am sure, that most painful of all sensations, that he

"Strove, in vain, in vain,  
To conjure up the past,"—

And that the hours,

"Tho' like the same, were not the same,  
Ah! never, never more."

Of course I was liable, to some extent, to the same sensations. But I came down solely to see my friends, and this I did; while Insignis came down to enjoy a day of Rugby life, which he didn't and couldn't. Moreover *his* friends, Light-blues and swells of his year, were all gone, while I found some old faces still in V. 2, or even under the gentle yoke of fagging.

I don't wish to urge that Insignis did not enjoy himself, or that others, more lucky than he was that day, do not enjoy themselves even more than he did; but I do contend that going down to Rugby is as great a treat to me as it is to any of the most illustrious Rugbeians. It is true that I have heard such remarks on myself as "Cosmopolitan" has recorded, but I can't say that I felt very much ashamed of myself. I have once or twice heard fellows wondering "what on earth Jones had come down for," and I am not sure that I should not have explained to them that I came to see my friends, had it not occurred to me that I might have some difficulty in conveying to that sort of fellow the idea that a man who was not even in Below Caps had friends who would care to see him after he had left.

I came down to Rugby the other day to say good-bye to it for a long time. I don't suppose you, Sir, noticed me, for I am getting rather an ancient Rugbeian, but I saw you, and was delighted to see a pillar of the press taking the ball through in so undeniable a manner. (There is, I fear, some confusion of metaphor here, but they did not teach the use of metaphor, below the Fifth at least, when I left.)

I feel, now, that I have written too much, though not too strongly; and I hope that any obscurities who may read this may follow my example, go to Rugby, and spend as pleasant a time there as I did. It will be long ere I see Rugby again, if, indeed, I ever revisit it; but when I set out for India, and leave behind me, as soon I must, so much that is dear to me here, then few ties will bind me more closely to home than my love for my old school, no recollections will be pleasanter than my memories of it.

I am, Sir, your obdt. servant,

E. J.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—As I have no doubt that "H." is some awful swell, I suppose it is extremely coxy in me not to agree with him in everything he says, but I really must beg to differ with him in one or two of his assertions. In the first place I can assure him it is quite a mistake about the Lower Middles hating Cricket and Football, and that lots of Lower Middle fellows enjoy playing, in summer in two and three Belows, and in winter in Below Caps and Second Twenties, quite as much as the swells do Big-Side Cricket and Football. Secondly, I am sure that the associations of many of those who leave in the Lower Middles are every bit as pleasant (notwithstanding carrying coats, &c.), and no more inky than those of many an Upper School swell. And thirdly, it seems to me that a Lower Middle has just as much right to come down if he likes, without being snubbed, as one who has left as a member of the Sixth or a swell; and, when he does come, knows quite as well how to conduct himself like a gentleman, notwithstanding his ignorance about averages, &c. And lastly, looking at it from a point of view which we all have or ought to have an eye upon, viz., our common interest. Although Rugby has many friends, yet it is always in want of subscriptions for some object or another, and it is not the way to get them enlarged, by giving every O.R. who comes down the cold shoulder, unless he has left high in the School or was a swell. I will now say no more, except that I hope "H." will have the patience to read this through, although written by

A. LOWER MIDDLE.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—It was with great pleasure, that I read "Cosmopolitan's" letter, in your last number. I think I can give one or two instances of what he says. Some little while ago, I was staying with an Old Rugbeian, who was in his House XI, and a promising forward in his House XX. I think I am right in saying, that he never has been down to Rugby since he left, though he has now left some time. I asked him the reason: "Oh!" he said, "I was not a swell there." I tried to persuade him to go, but he only said, "I would if I had got my 'cap.'" Now he certainly would have got his cap, only for private reasons he left when very

young. But no one in the School, when asked if he was a swell, would have the charity to mention his having left so early even if they knew it. Last Old Rugbeian Cricket Match, a certain O.R. was down, who was not a swell in any way, when at School. A member of his house with whom I was talking, asked me who he was: I told him. "Was he in the Vith?" "No."—"Was he in the XXII?" "No."—"Then what on earth has he come down for?"—And yet these fellows, who are no swells at games, and not high in the School, often have a great number of friends, whom they long to see, but are prevented by this cruel prejudice.

I have heard it said, that no School sticks together so much in afterlife as Rugby. But to prevent those from returning to their old School who were not swells in it is not the way to keep up this reputation. The real way to do it is, to welcome all, great swells and those who are almost unknown, as having been members of one School, and therefore friends of all connected with it. If we do this, we shall have more than twenty-seven Old Rugbeians down for Cricket, and than twenty-five for Football, in future.

Believe me, Sir, your truly,

NULLUS TUMOR.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—A good deal was said in your paper last Term on the subject of the Big-Side Levée. Looking fairly at the arguments brought forward on either side, I think the present body was proved to be extremely unwieldy and incapable, but also that it was found to be very hard to draw up a satisfactory scheme for a new one. I do not wish to raise the old question again, but to point out, if you will allow me, a very great evil in the present system, which though of long standing, might be easily remedied—I mean the custom of perpetually voting by houses, of voting according to the house one is in. Levée after Levée each house takes up the position in the School assigned to it by usage. When there is a division, there it stands, firm as a rock and undivided, or else goes over, of course in a compact body, to the other side. This is the case as a rule: there may be an exception here or there which only proves the rule more fully. Perhaps one in every thirty are wont to separate themselves from

their houses, simply and honestly on the ground of differing in opinion. You will then hear it said, "What a strange thing for so-and-so to vote against his house," or "What reason can he have for doing so," or disagreeable things like that. What on earth, Sir, does it matter what house a fellow is in when he has to decide something with himself? To compare great things with small, it is just as if a member of the House of Commons from the North of England were to vote against another because he came from the South. Perhaps once or twice a year house feeling may be brought in, when it would be very strange if the houses were not united in themselves: but more frequently than that it certainly does not or ought not to exist.

The consequences of this practice are obvious. It easily happens that an influential fellow who wants to carry a motion has simply to get two or three others in other houses to join him, and he is almost sure of it. Or again, some one trusts too much to the good sense of the Levée, and only gets a seconder out of his own house. He is opposed simply from factious motives, and his motion, good or bad, falls to the ground. Many other results which I need not mention occur, I am sure, to every one.

I know that it will be answered directly. Modesty is the cause of this with a large number of those whom you are speaking of. Fellows who have not been here long, or have not been in the Upper School more than one Term, are quite justified in yielding to the opinions of their superiors, and not pushing themselves forward. But I maintain that no pushing forward is required at all. If all gave their votes as they had honestly decided in their own minds, it would very rarely happen that any one totally separated himself from his house.

If, Sir, after all, this dependent feeling of modesty is right and necessary, if a large majority of Big-Side Levée may not exercise their powers of thought, but only look to their leaders to see which way to vote, if in this way any who may think at all are to be swamped by numbers and numbers alone,—I say, let that wretched majority be off, for they are not wanted. Let them gratify their own self-respect, and bring credit to their intelligence by voluntarily abdicating. Yes, let them give up their privilege of belonging

to that wonderful and corrupt body, Big-Side Levée.

Hoping that you will have the kindness to insert this,

I remain, Sir, yours etc.,  
A. C. W. H. A.

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*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—On looking back in the old numbers of the *Meteor* I see five letters, at least written about the way in which winnings are counted for the Cup at our Athletic Games. Suggestions were made, some approved, others objected to, but all to no purpose: for the winnings were counted the same as before.

The other day, an old Rugbeian said to me, "I hate the *Meteor*; it is so awfully Radical." This is true; but, at the same time, I do not see what good a School paper can do if it is not, for, I think, its object ought to be to point out faults and give suggestions: and the School, when it reads its faults and the *Meteor's* suggestions, ought to take means to find out what is the best suggestion, and how it may be carried out.

Now, on making inquiry I find that no notice whatever was taken, either by Big-Side Levée or by the Stewards, of this palpable fault in our Athletic games, in spite of the numerous letters on the subject in the *Meteor*. But I beg you to understand that it is not because I made a suggestion myself and am disappointed at its not being carried out that I write, but because I hope that, if the subject is started sufficiently early, means will be taken to put an end to the system which now exists, which every one condemns as unfair, but which no one stirs to reform.

I am, Sir, yours truly,  
EQUITY.

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#### THE ORGAN FUND.

The following Subscriptions have been received for the Organ Fund:—

E. H. Warner .....	2	6
C. W. Kennedy.....	2	6
F. G. Cholmondeley.....	2	6
From the School House	5	9
From the Rev. C. Elsee's	3	15
	0	0