

below caps Moss (half-back), Brocklehurst (back), Campbell, and Langford distinguished themselves.

It was settled at a Levée of Caps that all Big-Side should this Term be voluntary.

BIGSIDE PAPER-CHASE.

There have been two Big-Side Paper-Chases this term, on Jan. 21st and 28th. On the former occasion Francis (Wilson's), Warner (S.H.), and Gardner (B. Smith's) went hares, starting from Whitehall, and going round by Hillmorton. On the 28th the hares were Scott and Bulpett (Wilson's). The course taken was by Dunchurch Tollbar, the fir plantations in Mr. Lancaster's park, Rainsbrook, and Hillmorton, coming in at the School Gates. A large field started, among whom was S. P. Bucknill (O.R.), lately head of the School Eleven.

At a Big-Side Levée, the Athletics were fixed for Monday and Tuesday, March 15th and 16th,—S. K. Gwyer being elected fourth Steward.

RUGBY HONOURS.—Mr. J. S. ff. Chamberlain (St. John's, Cambridge), 16th Wrangler.

Among the successful competitors in the late Examination for admission into Woolwich we notice the names of A. C. Bruce and F. W. Campbell (both formerly in the School House) and J. Hone (Rev. L. F. Burrows's).

We notice the publication, by Messrs. Macmillan, of a new edition of *Tom Brown's School-days*, profusely illustrated.

In place of Sir T. Gresley, Bart., whose death is noticed in our columns, another Old Rugbeian, Col. Henry Wilmot, has been elected M.P. for South Derbyshire. Col. Wilmot is the only Rugbeian who has, as yet, gained the Victoria Cross. This honour he obtained when Captain in the Rifle Brigade, for conspicuous gallantry at Lucknow, March 11, 1858, on which occasion he covered the retreat of two of his men who were bearing away a wounded comrade in the face of a large body of the enemy. Col. Wilmot is a Conservative.

We notice the return of W. J. Pinckney (O.R.), last year's stroke, to his place in the Cambridge boat. His place in the Eight was supplied at the beginning of the term by L. R. Wigham (O.R.).

THE SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

The *Cheltonian* gives a long account of Dr. Barry, who, during the six years of his Headmastership, seems to have thoroughly gained the affections of Cheltonians in general. The rest of the Number is principally filled up with Football.

The *Eton Chronicle*, in its review of last term, laments the bad support of the Field-Football, and the consequent weakness of the Field Eleven. The Wall game, however, has prospered. Mr. Drury's was cock house.

Our fame has penetrated to America.—We have received a periodical from Racine College, which, however, contains nothing of special interest.

OLD RUGBEIAN OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Sir T. Gresley, Bart., M.P. for South Derbyshire, in the 36th year of his age. He entered the School in August, 1845.

The death is announced of Capt. Bagenal, of the 16th Lancers. This gentleman is described in *The County Families* as "educated at Rugby," but we can find no mention of his name in the Register. Perhaps some of our readers can enlighten us on this point.

We hear on good authority, as an instance of the gratitude of a nation for a valuable discovery, that Major Palliser, the inventor of chilled shot, has received from the British Government, beside the empty title of C.B., exactly half as much as he expended in making his discovery known to the world.

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.

SIR,—Although there is very little chance of anything resulting from a continued duel with "Cosmopolitan" than mere contradiction on both sides, will you allow me this once to put in my plea?

In my former letter I asserted that the number of fellows who leave unknown or low in the School, "who are bright, brave, honest, and kindly," is very small. "Cosmopolitan," neglecting my limitation, in his next thrust

takes my meaning to be "very few fellows leave low and unknown." The number of those who leave low and unknown is, I affirm, smaller than that of those who are in some way known, at least by their contemporaries (for of course those who become known to Old Rugbeians, and will be known by name to posterity, are very few). But subdivide them, and how many will you find who are "bright, brave, honest, and kindly," and have remained unknown as such to their contemporaries? I purposely looked up the Rugby Register on the subject, and at hazard took the entrances of a half-year. I found only about one-third of them, in my opinion, who would not be remembered by most who were at School with them. This class is, I say, numerically small; but virtually how much smaller? For I hold that all who have been at Rugby have not a common claim to son-ship. The low and unknown, who have probably not been here long, have not done much to her credit, and cannot lay claim to the rank of eldest-sonship which belongs to those who have increased her fame. Many get a great part of their education, with which they start life, from other schools, to which they have betaken themselves after leaving Rugby. These, I say, are not in the same way Rugbeians as those who have spent all their boyhood here, and who owe to Rugby all the sensations most pleasing to them.

Now to turn to "Cosmopolitan's" next misrepresentation. He says that my statement that the number who leave low and unknown is very small, is not relevant, because, he nobly adds, "however few the sufferers, an injustice is an injustice still." But was not my statement relevant as a contradiction to his, in his first letter, when he says that "Rugby owes a deep debt of loving and grateful remembrance to that *still larger* number, &c., &c." (*i. e.*, the undistinguished)? "Cosmopolitan" seems to hold that

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene"

(*i. e.*, the low, unknown, bright, brave, &c.,)

"The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;"

(*i. e.*, the Lower Middles.) But if such a state is possible

"Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,"

I think it has not often been demonstrated at Rugby. The Society is too small. No part of the School, except, perhaps, the second and third forms, is an "unfathom'd cave of ocean."

In "Cosmopolitan's" last paragraph he goes off into an entirely different subject,—

the gulf between Upper and Lower Boys. He doubts not that this gulf has been too wide. I feel certain it has not. I am sorry to say that my memory can carry me back not many years, when cosmopolitanism—the mixture of high and low, Sixth and Lower Middle, in one happy family—was not studied as a science; and in those days small boys were not nearly so presuming, the Sixth did their duty more decidedly, and the School in general was in a far higher state of discipline than it is now, or ever would be in the "Utopia" of "Cosmopolitan."

SCOTUS.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—Now that the usual Public School Athletics are coming on, I hope you will allow me to make a few remarks with respect to those at Rugby. In the first place, I am surprised to see by the papers that you still continue "Standing jumping," a species of exercise not particularly elegant, and long since gone out of fashion at Cambridge, Oxford, and at the meetings of the chief Athletic Clubs. Would it not be advisable to discontinue such a useless branch of Athletics?

The next point that strikes me is the absence in your programme of any race longer than 200 yards, for junior boys. Supposing a prize or prizes were given for a longer distance—say half-a-mile to a mile,—would it not bring fellows out rather, and the School Mile be thereby done faster than it seems to be by report.

Lastly, in both Universities, in the Colleges, and in most of the Public Schools, I find prizes given for a Three Mile race, and yet among the list at Rugby I find no race of this description. How is this? I always thought that Rugby was from time immemorial famous for its distance-runners, and yet, where one would expect to find it, there is nothing of the sort—nothing longer than a mile. The winner of a mile and of a three-mile run is rarely or ever the same person, so I think there would be no danger of both events falling to the same person. Perhaps the School authorities have forbidden a long race under the idea of its proving too great exertion to the competitors; but this can hardly be when year by year the papers notice a great run—the Crick, of fabulous length, and run in fabulous time, and for which—I am informed by all Old Rugbeians—fellows undergo tolerably severe training

without any injury. If this is allowed, surely an annual race of three miles would be sanctioned; and I doubt not but that ere long we should see more Rugbeians contesting on behalf of the Sister Universities. If, therefore, you have a Three-mile race, to which no adequate objection can be raised, see that it is run on a good running path, or on the best and straightest road that can be found.

Apologizing for the length of these remarks, my respect for Rugby School being my only excuse,

I am, Sir, yours,
HARRY MERTON.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—The results of the recent discussions in Big-side Levee have made me feel still more strongly than before that it is impossible in this way to arrive at the true opinion of the School. In the first place the voting is almost exclusively by Houses. The proposer of a measure has only to get an influential member of another house to promise his support, and the votes of his house follow as a matter of course. This evil is bad enough, but I think that the present legislators of the School are not as a body at all competent to decide on most of the questions brought before them; and I think that the recent appeal from them to a different body is a very fortunate precedent.

I consider that the proposal of "Radical" some time ago to form a levee which would represent the different games, is right in principle, though the details are doubtless faulty.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
FREETHINKER.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—After so many letters have appeared in the *Meteor* advocating improvements or changes in the time of celebration and management of the School Athletics, I venture to suggest an alteration in the dress of the athletes themselves. It is, the adoption of flannels reaching to the knee, and of running-shoes. Long flannels, and perhaps worse, "ducks," tucked into stockings, prevent the free action of the knee in running, and although I have seen shortened bags used often, I think that the nearest approach to that at the Athletics was one solitary pair of knicker-bockers. Light running-shoes, too, with small spikes, would give an immense advantage on grass (especially if wet). Either stockings or boots in my time were

the two kinds of foot-coverings for competitors; indeed, during five years' experience, I think I only saw one pair of running-shoes (clumsy ones they were, too), and a very few pairs of cricket-shoes used in races. I also think that every one ought to wear flannels for running, as I do not see why the privilege of comfort in dress should depend upon proficiency in football, and I know that the necessity of running in "ducks" has prevented good runners from entering for races which they might have won.

I think, therefore, that anything which would better the very slow times of our races at Rugby ought to be tried. If, then, a few would set the example,—or if a strangers' race were instituted, where the competitors would dress as runners generally dress,—in fact, if it could be made "the correct thing" among you, I am sure it would materially improve the style of running and shorten the times of the races.

I am, &c., &c.,

TOM SKITCH.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—About a year ago, when our Athletic Games were over, the reformers of our manners and customs, with all the eagerness of those who wish to shut the stable door when the horse is gone, poured forth their eloquence on the subject of the way of deciding on the holder of the Athletic Cup. Many and various were the schemes they proposed for altering the ways of our ancestors—and no doubt they were as excellent as they were various. Are they to fall away unheeded—or at least untried? Assure your correspondent and admirer

M. L.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—In addition to the names mentioned in the list you have already published, I think you will find the four following Members of the present Parliament are also Old Rugbeians.

I am, Sir, yours truly, E. G. L.

Mr. F. C. Smith (C.), N. Notts.

Mr. W. Powell (C.), Malmesbury.

Mr. W. H. H. Bradley (C.), East Riding, Yorkshire.

Col. S. W. Clowes (C.), N. Leicestershire.

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