



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

No. 25.

RUGBY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1869.

Price [With Extra
Half-Sheet.] 6d.

AFTER the numerous suggestions which appeared in our columns last year for improving the way of awarding the Athletic Cup, we had hoped this Term to hear something more on the subject. Disappointed in this, we wish to recall some of their proposals; in the eleventh hour, certainly, but there is still a fortnight before the Athletics, and the subject is not so very complicated that it cannot be settled in that time.

All our correspondents seemed to agree on one point, namely, that the present plan of allowing all events to count alike, is wrong, and that some system of valuation ought to be resorted to, a certain number of marks being assigned to each, in proportion to its importance. We heartily second this proposal, in the belief that there would be no great difficulty in adopting it.

On a second point however,—what should count at all—a good deal of controversy took place. There were two proposals put forward. The first was that of “Aquila,” “That the Cup be obtained only for what is done on the ground during the two days of the Athletics.” But we think that few would like to see the School Steeplechase, the Racquets, and the Fives, excluded from the Cup, or even, as “Aquila” suggests, provided for by a second Cup.

The other opinion is that of “Trebla,” who would have Football and Cricket to count for the Cup, saying that they are Athletics of the highest order. This is very true, and the scheme looks well on paper; but it would, we think, be impossible to work. By means of the batting and bowling averages we certainly can decide on the

best cricketer, and award him marks towards the Cup: but how are we to settle on the best football player? The only test of merit which will give any definite result is that of running in or dropping goals; but this would utterly exclude the “forwards.” Thus we see it is quite impossible to put Football on the same level as Running and Racquets, and such being the case, it is fairer for Cricket to share its fate. Our own view is that no change is required in the number of events which award the Cup, if only their comparative value is settled.

Another proposal we must notice; it is to allow winners to win a second time, counting their victory towards the Cup, but not taking the prize. This, we think, would be beneficial; we should see our best man win, and the very clumsy and unfair expedient of counting up all a fellow has won in previous years, would be no longer needed.

The Stewards have already made several improvements in the programme, and we hope they will turn their attention to this very important question.

WHATEVER blame the unlucky remarks at the commencement of our last Number may justly incur, they have at least this merit, that they have stirred up our Correspondents from the languid condition into which, from want of a grievance, they had gradually fallen. Vials of wrath are poured on our devoted head. Our transgression has had no parallel since the rash moment when we ventured on our Double Acrostic of immortal memory. But in the depths to which we

have sunk, some gleams of hope that from this a controversy may arise, have penetrated to us. For, though one correspondent blandly assures us that we are going headlong to ruin, another thanks us warmly for having mooted the matter. "Who shall decide when Doctors disagree?" But they all seem to unite in one error: namely, that they only allude to the *Meteor* as either a simple School record, or else as a School Magazine, compounded entirely of original effusions, not dreaming, apparently, of the possibility of a combination of the two.

RUGBY SCHOOL DEBATING SOCIETY.

The February Debates have been a decided advance upon the January ones. Whether measured by the number and brilliance of the attendance, or the vigour and spirit of the speeches, there has been a continual and marked improvement. The eagerness, indeed, with which the public have availed themselves of the free entry to the gallery has given rise to grave fears respecting the safety of that structure. For the future, we understand, each member of the Society (now further increased to 33) will be able to admit one visitor to the floor of the House, and one to the Gallery; and none will be admitted in any other way.

On Saturday, 6th February, Mr. SHIRLEY moved.—

"That the vote by ballot ought to be adopted in parliamentary elections."

The Honourable Opener dwelt with much force on the imperative necessity that voting should be free, and on the serious obstacles to that free exercise which still exist in many constituencies.

The debate was ably sustained by Mr. DAVIES, who pointed out the importance of publicity in voting;

Mr. GARRETT, who denounced the corruption and intimidation which made the Ballot desirable;

Mr. BARING and Mr. HASLAM, who cleared the way on either side by a clear and effective criticism, on arguments alleged by their respective opponents, which appeared to them invalid.

Mr. ROBERTSON also took part in the Debate, speaking strongly against the motion.

On a division, the motion was lost by a majority of four, the votes being

For the Ballot	11
Against.....	15

Majority against 4

Among the Visitors were Miss Temple, Mrs. Moberly, Mrs. Powlett, Miss Moberly, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Warner, Mr. Potts, and Mr. Robertson.

On Saturday, 13th Feb., the Debate was opened by Mr. PEAKE, who moved:—

"That the proceedings of the Jamaica Committee against Mr. Eyre were impolitic and unreasonable."

Arguing, after a wide and careful survey of the general question of our Colonial relations, that Mr. Eyre was placed in a position of much difficulty, and deserved much consideration; and he concluded by pointing out the grave stigma which his opponents endeavoured to attach to him by the charge of murder.

Mr. GARRETT opposed, dwelling with emphasis and power on the illegality of the so-called trials, notably in the case of Mr. Gordon.

Mr. KENNEDY reminded the House that the question had been submitted to the Grand Jury, who had decided in Mr. Eyre's favour; a decision, of which the importance was canvassed by—

Mr. H. LEE-WARNER; whose arguments were in turn subjected to the searching criticism of Mr. EASTWICK.

Mr. SIDGWICK supported Mr. Garrett, and was replied to by

Mr. COTTERILL who, in an interesting speech, remarked on the number of eminent men who had supported Mr. Eyre, such as Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Carlyle, and others. Although Mr. Eyre had doubtless made mistakes, they ought not to be regarded, he contended, as crimes. In conclusion, he feared that if strong and decisive acts were thus severely censured, it might result in the suppression of masculine individuality of character, and the promotion of a dead level of mediocrity.

After the due replies, the House divided:—

For the motion.....	14
Against.....	8

Majority for Mr. Eyre 6

Among the Visitors were Miss Temple, Miss C. Temple, Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Sidgwick, Mr. and Mrs. A. Powlett, Mr. and Mrs. Lee-Warner, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Cotterill.

But the most exciting debate by far was that raised by the motion of Mr. Kough, who, on Saturday, 20th February, argued,—

“That the dis-establishment of the Irish Church is a necessary act of justice to Ireland.”

After premising that Ireland should be treated as a sister, and taking a slight historical survey, he combated the objections that the wrong was merely sentimental, or that the abolition would be a surrender to the Pope. He insisted strongly on the right of the State to regulate corporate trusts, and all Church property. He concluded by an earnest appeal for justice.

Mr. WARNER was suspicious about the safety or justice of the proposed remedy. He ably argued that all England was equally concerned in the question, that nine-tenths of the soil was Protestant, that the real causes of annoyance were not religious, and that the measure was a blow at all establishments.

Mr. SHIRLEY followed, and in a speech of surpassing eloquence, interrupted by the heartiest cheering, described the ill state of Ireland, the standing grievance of the establishment, which wounded a sensitive nation in its tenderest point, and replied to Mr. Warner's fears by welcoming the overthrow of all State Churches.

After a few remarks from Mr. KENNEDY, ascribing the evils of Ireland (from personal knowledge) to other sources,

Mr. VICARS rose, and pleaded the Conservative cause with a humour and vigour which called forth enthusiastic applause. The Church, he argued, would be lowered in position and tone by the measure proposed. There was no more objection to a Protestant Church for Ireland than to a Protestant Queen. The issue of the proposal to the English Church was not fairly looked in the face. The legislation had proceeded by steps which had all been foreboded, though at the time denied by the Liberal party. He ended by eloquently depicting the greatness of the cause.

Mr. EASTWICK argued that the Irish converts were mostly converts in the second

generation. Also that the State had no right to take away what private persons give.

Mr. POTTS criticised Mr. Vicars' speech, remarking that the “proselytism” argument was invalid in itself and obscured the real issue.

Messrs. WARNER and KOUGH having replied, the votes were taken amid much excitement. There were found

For the motion.....	15
Against	17

The motion was lost by 2

Messrs. Whitelaw, Robertson, Wilson, Potts, Burrows, Gray, and Tobin, voted on the question; and among the visitors were 14 ladies, Mr. Vicars, Mr. Powlett, and Dr. Farquharson.

At a private business meeting held on Wednesday, 24th February, three new members were elected, viz.:—Mr. Allison, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Warrington.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

This Society met on February 20th. Presents of books were received from Dr. Oldham and Mr. Lloyd, both Old Rugbeians, and more notably a collection of New Zealand Ferns, on which we comment elsewhere.

Among other exhibitions, the Rev. T. N. Hutchinson showed some splendid specimens of Mica, in connection with a piece of Mica which had been found at the new buildings of the Rugby Bank.

N. Masterman then read a paper “On Snakes, and the Slow-worm,” to which the Society have awarded their prize for an essay embodying original observation.

J. M. Lester then read a paper “On Traces of Glacial Action at Conway, N. Wales,” as seen by him last summer.

Mr. Wilson will furnish all members and associates with tickets for his two lectures at the Town Hall on Monday, the 1st, and 15th of next month.

The Society's Report for 1868 will soon be ready, at Tait's; the price will be 2s. 6d. to the public, and 1s. to members and associates.

HONOURS AT THE UNIVERSITIES.—J. Eastwick, Scholar of University College, Oxford; F. G. Cholmondeley, Studentship at Christchurch.

BIG-SIDE LEVEE.

On Wednesday, the 17th inst., the following motions were proposed by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Gwyer, and carried unanimously:—

- 1.—That the Standing Jumping should be discontinued.
- 2.—That there should be a Quarter-of-a-Mile Handicap, with an entrance-fee of 1s.
- 3.—That one High Jumping, and a Half-Mile Race, both open to all under 5ft. 4in., should be substituted for the two High Jumpings for all under 5ft. 6in. and 5ft. 2in.
- 4.—That the Mile should be open to all, and run in the Close.
- 5.—That all fellows should be allowed to wear flannels at the Athletics.

Mr. Haslam then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Cordery (O.R.), who has offered a Cup for the Single Racquets. Mr. Francis seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

R. S. R. V. C.

On Friday, February 19, a meeting of commissioned and non-commissioned officers was held, at which Captain Phillipotts made a statement of the accounts since May, when the Corps was enrolled. It appeared that there was a balance in favour of the Corps of £1 2s. 4d., in addition to the Government Grant of about £98, which is to be entirely laid aside for the building of the new Range. It is probable that the expenses of the Corps will not be so great in future, since considerable expense has been incurred this year by reason of the change of uniform consequent upon the enrolment of the Corps.—At this meeting it was also decided that there should be a "march-out" to Kenilworth, which will probably take place on Saturday, March 13.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the Baldwin Challenge Cup was competed for, at 200, 400, and 500 yards, five shots at each distance. The day was cold, with a strong and somewhat gusty wind blowing from left to right across the range. The Cup was won by Ensign Humphry with 42 points, Private Lawson taking the second place with 25.

OLD RUGBEIAN OBITUARY.

Died, February 24th, of injuries received from a fall when hunting, Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Bart. (O.R.), M.P. for Scarborough.

THE BEST HOUSES AT FOOTBALL.

At the end of last Term we gave a list of the Two Best Houses for a few past years. By reference to the House-book of Mr. Shairp's House we are enabled to prefix the following list with a few particulars as to that celebrated house:—

1852	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ School House.....	2
1853	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ School House.....	
1854	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ Rev. R. B. Mayor's....	2
1855	{ J. C. Shairp, Esq.'s....	1
	{ School House.....	

We believe we are right in stating that Mr. Shairp's was the first house that vanquished the School House, and it is mentioned, in the records from which we have taken the above, that Shairp's flourished for 13 seasons without a single defeat at football.

In 1852 Shairp's having kicked a goal against the S. H., the two houses played the School, but we do not hear which side won.

In 1853 the S. H. played with a gale in their favour, and with its help just managed to make a drawn match.

In 1854 Mayor's, who had easily beaten all other good houses, were defeated by this champion house, now reduced to 25 members.

In 1855 *there were only 18 left at Mr. Shairp's, but this gallant little House followed-up to a man, and played an even match with the School House Twenty.* This year the two Houses again played the School, and a goal was dropped for the Houses.

From this time till Midsummer, 1857, Shairp's House declined in numbers and was finally given up, the eight remaining members migrating to other houses. The library is in the Arnold Library, and is to be given to the next house which may be opened.

BIG SIDE HARE AND HOUNDS.

On Thursday, February 11th, the Thurleston run took place. The weather was all that could be desired, and the ground perfect for running. A large field appeared at the

start; Scott (Wilson's) and Lomax (Hutchinson's) went Hares, the former accomplishing the distance in 44 min. 50 sec., being exactly three minutes faster than previously on record, the quickest time heretofore being that of Gordon's (Blake's), in 47 min. 50 sec.; the first four hounds also beat this time by some seconds, although they made rather a round by going along the road, instead of over the fields, to the Dunchurch toll-bar. From the commencement Walker made the running for the hounds, and kept first till near the toll-bar, when unfortunately mistaking the way, he lost his place and was unable to regain it. The running throughout was exceedingly good, since, notwithstanding the quickness of the pace, and the distance, which must be more than seven miles, twelve out of the sixteen hounds came in, the first five within 51 sec. of one another. The following is the list of those who came in:—

	HARES.	MIN.	SEC.
Lomax		50	41
Scott		44	50
	HOUNDS.		
1. Bulpett		47	2
2. Brierley		47	4
3. Sidgwick mi.		47	35
4. Kough		47	45
5. Walker		47	53
6. Cobbold		48	41
7. Agnew		49	10
8. Francis }		50	0
9. Gwyer }		50	5
10. Warner		51	8
11. Lefroy		51	33
12. Cholmondeley		51	33

Sayer, Peel, Masterman, and Sidgwick ma. started, but failed to come in by a few minutes.

On Saturday, February 20th, there was a Bigside Paper-chase; a large field appeared at the start, which was from Mr. Hutchinson's house; Francis, Gwyer, and Warner went hares. They chose a capital course, and set some stiff jumps, but unfortunately near Bilton Grange the pack lost the scent, and being dispersed, each chose his own way home.

SCHOOL PLACING:—1, Sidgwick ma. (S.H.); 2, Gwyer (Rev. C. B. Hutchinson's).—SCHOOL DROPPING:—1, Moberly (S.H.); 2, Peel (Rev. C. T. Arnold's).

Some Inter-Public-School Athletics have been projected, to take place at Beaufort House during the Easter holidays. Nothing however seems to be as yet definitely arranged.

HOUSE NEWS.

J. M. WILSON'S, ESQ.—Our house steeple-chases came off on Tuesday, February 23. The number of starters was small, and in each an easy victory was achieved by the winner. In the Big steeple-chase Brocklehurst showed to the front for the first few jumps, the rest being close up; but Francis gradually ran through the rest, and won as he liked—Combe and Bulpett were a moderate second and third. For the Little event Jeffery went off with the lead, the others being in close attendance, and Cassavetti bringing up the rear, which position he retained throughout. There was a good race between the first three or four, until Steel took first place, and, running in very good style, came in an easy winner—Adanson second, and Bulpett mi. third.

The House placing was won by Langford; Dudgeon second. The House Dropping by Bulpett ma.; Tennant second.

REV. C. B. HUTCHINSON'S.—The House Steeple Chases took place on Thursday, February 25th. Eight started in that open to all. They all kept close together till about two-thirds of the course had been run, when Gwyer ma. took the lead and won by about 30 yards; Mackinlay was second, Isherwood ma. third, and Agnew fourth.

In the Steeple Chase under 5ft. 6in. there was a good field of 20. Hallsworth took a decided lead at first, but Cobbold, passing him near the end, won by 20 yards. Hallsworth was second, Anderson third, Boyd fourth, and Lomax mi. fifth.

Among the winners and seconds in the recent College "grinds" at both Universities we notice the following Old Rugbeians:—

OXFORD.

LINCOLN COLL.

G. E. STEWARD.—First in 100 yards and Quarter-of-a-Mile; Second in Half-Mile Handicap.

A. CORDERY.—First in Hurdle Race and High Jump.
W. F. THOMPSON.—Second in Putting the Stone, Throwing the Hammer, and Throwing the Cricket-ball (in the latter giving 6 yards).

C. C. C.

F. H. MAITLAND.—First in Broad Jumping and Throwing the Cricket-ball.

J. T. SOUTTER.—First in Consolation Stakes and Second in Throwing the Cricket-ball.

D'A. B. COLLYER.—First in Sack-race.

J. GRAHAM.—Second in Broad Jumping.

MAGD. COLL.

A. B. STEWARD.—Second in Putting the Stone.

CAMBRIDGE.

TRINITY HALL.

H. W. BADGER.—First in Putting the Stone.

W. M. COLVIN.—First in Throwing the Hammer.

T. T. PAINE (Trin. Coll.).—Second in Strangers' Race (3 miles).

TRIN. COLL.

T. T. PAINE.—First in Mile Race.

L. R. WHIGHAM.—First in Three-Mile Race.

J. D. NICHOL.—Second in Putting the Stone.

We hear that A. W. Lambert (O.R.), one of the representatives of Cambridge in the Quarter-of-a-Mile race against Oxford last year, will not be able, on account of ill health, to run this year.

We notice the publication of a new periodical—*The Atlas, or Public Schools' Chronicle*,—based, we are informed, on Constitutional principles, and "devoting its principal attention to the important question of the day—Education." It reports weekly at considerable length on one of the Public Schools.

The *Eton Chronicle* tells us that the beagles have had two capital runs, one on January 28th, the other on February 2nd, the latter being the best run of the season.—The practice of the Eight has been much thrown back by the floods, but has begun at last.—We are glad to hear that the last barrier between Collegers and Oppidians has been broken down by the admission of Collegers to the "Boats." In consequence of this a new eight-oar has been put on.—The Eton Society has held two debates, one on the Ballot, the introduction of which was negatived, the other on Compulsory Education, against which there was a good majority.

The *Oxford Undergraduates' Journal* is interesting to all who favour Oxford Athletics; it also gives some information about the boat, and Notices about the different Public Schools.

Our American correspondents at Racine College have again sent over their publication, in which there are some good articles. We miss, however, the account of Athletics which appears in all our Public School papers.

We learn from a recent number of the *Eton Chronicle* that, of all the Public-Schools, next to Eton, Rugby sends up most new members to the present Parliament.

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,—The following letter, with a collection of Ferns, was received by Mr. Wilson, who requested me to send a copy to the *Meteor*.

Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand,
5th October, 1868.

DEAR SIR,—I find that the Rugby boys are paying considerable attention to Botany. As a pupil of an Old Rugbeian, the Rev. F. C. Simmons, I venture to offer for your School Library a collection of the Ferns of this province, with which I this year obtained the prize at the High School of Otago. I have forwarded it by the Panama boat.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

D. REID.

P.S.—I shall be glad to hear of their safe arrival.

To J. M. Wilson, Esq., Rugby.

Thinking it might certainly be interesting to publish,

I remain, yours,

JAMES H. DAVIES.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I was glad to see in your last number some remarks on the subject of School Magazines, or, to speak more strictly, on the subject of the *Meteor*; and I trust that, as one who has had some experience in the double capacity of contributor and editor, you will allow me to say a few words on that perplexing subject.

One point, I suppose, may be dismissed without further discussion, namely, whether or not it be advisable to make a School Magazine a vehicle for School news. No one will deny that it is interesting to past and present Rugbeians to possess a record of School events. No one will refuse to share in Horace's regret that many brave men should have died before Agamemnon and been lost to memory because they lacked the sacred bard. A chronicle of the School cricket-matches has indeed been published, but alas! without an account of the matches,

the heroes' names are mere *nominum umbræ*, almost as empty and meaningless as the prehistoric kings of Latium. And as for Football, a chronicle of the School football is, or was, kept in the register-box possessed by the Head of the School; but (at least while it was in my hands) no one, I fear, was curious enough to pore over its thrilling pages. I think we may take it for granted that no future generation of Rugbeians will be unwilling to learn how their fathers lived and fought in the good days of old.

The next point upon which you dwell in your article, raises a much more difficult question. Ought a School Magazine to be written with a view to the outer world, or the immediate circle for which it is primarily intended? Ought its object to be the satisfaction of external or of internal critics? Ought we to be distressed because our friends do not care about the topics of black hats or cock houses, provided that *we* care about them? On the one hand it is argued that a School Magazine ought to be a representative of the School's intellectual power, that the *Meteor* is the test by which that intellectual power is tried in foreign parts; that it constitutes, as it were, the credentials which Rugby sends forth to rival Schools. On the other hand, it is argued that a School Magazine is written for its own School, and has no business to cater for the tastes of the general public. Though there is a certain amount of truth in both these sides of the question, I think there is most truth in the latter. For a Rugbeian to condemn the *Meteor* because an Etonian or an Harrovian says "What a slow paper the *Meteor* is! Who on earth cares about black hats?" would be as absurd as for an Englishman to condemn the *Times* because a Chinaman says "What a slow paper the *Times* is! Who on earth cares about the cession of Gibraltar?"

The real objection, I fancy, to a School Magazine exclusively occupied with such subjects is, if I may be pardoned the heresy, that it becomes wearisome at last to the readers for whom it is written. Those among your readers who have studied that delightful novel "Hypatia," will probably remember the answer made by the monk, who had been condemned to tug at the oar under compulsion, when the Patriarch of Alexandria invites him to take a seat—"Verily, of sitting, as of all other carnal pleasures, there cometh satiety at the last!"

The third point, namely the length of the numbers, is one which would not excite much

diversity of opinion. One of the causes of the decline and fall of your predecessors, the "Rugby Magazine," the "Rugby Miscellany," the "New Rugbeian," and the "New Rugby Magazine," was, I imagine, the necessity of filling 30 odd pages with interesting and original contributions, a task which may be more readily imagined than achieved. The school-boy, whether as writer or as reader, is speedily sated with strong food. He much prefers variety to quantity.

The fourth point is open to far more discussion. What ought the character of the contributions to be? Ought the magazine to exist for the sake of those who read or for the sake of those who write? Ought it, in other words, to contain such matter as will be interesting and amusing to the ordinary school-boy, or ought it to be an arena wherein the unfledged geniuses of the School may essay their first flights? If the former alternative be adopted, it is quite evident that numberless articles will be excluded which ordinarily find a place in School Magazines, especially one favourite "genus" (favourite I mean so far as the writers are concerned)—articles of poetic criticism. There seems to be a peculiar antipathy to these articles in the mind of the average Schoolboy. "My conscience!" once exclaimed an enthusiastic friend of mine, "the poets again! One need never say 'Long live the poets.' Bless me! each one of them seems to have seven lives a-piece!"

But I think this criterion is somewhat unfair. The Report of the Natural History Society, and the account of the School Concert, are inserted, though probably for many readers they possess little interest. The same may be said of many of the letters which with each revolving moon fill the *Meteor's* columns. It seems to me rather hard to apply to articles a test which is not applied to School news or letters.

But there is a further argument against critical articles. You can (it is urged) read first-rate articles on these subjects in the *Edinburgh* and the *Quarterly*; in *Frazer* and *Macmillan*. Why, then, should you put up with an inferior article when you can, without the least difficulty obtain the best? I would only observe that if this principle be carried out consistently, it would exclude from School Magazines every contribution except such as deal with purely School topics; it would exclude—to take a few instances at random from the *New Rugbeian*—articles on Advertisements, and Reflections on the character

of Blue Beard; Verses on Balaclava, and Tales of the Black Forest. The last-named, by the way, was (if I am not mistaken) one of the most popular contributions which ever appeared in the *New Rugbyer*. But it would be absurd to suppose that better stories could not be found in shoals in the Monthly Magazines.

But my remarks are running to an inordinate length, and will, unless I stop, be visited with criticisms no less severe than those which fall on the poetical articles. I spoke at the beginning of the difficulty of this subject; and I do not possess any very definite ideas about the ideal School Magazine. I am, however, pretty clear on two points: first, that there is no reason why the *Meteor* should not blend the "utile cum dulce;" why it should not unite the charms of the *Cornhill* and the *Times*; the diffusion of School news and the gratification of the general public, whether at home or abroad; and, secondly, that while editors ought to consult as far as may be the taste of their readers, they are not bound to study exclusively the interests of any particular section, by rejecting well-written and otherwise unimpeachable contributions. For the rest, if there be any quantum of merit in any one of my vague conceptions, I feel sure that correspondents will not be wanting to give them a local habitation and a name. Meanwhile, allow me to assure you of my warmest good wishes for your success in the endeavour to raise the *Meteor* to an ideal standard, and my confident expectations that you will succeed in your attempt.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
A. BABINGTON.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I perceive that in an article of your last number you advocate a change in the *Meteor*, and hold up the *Marlburian* as an example we should do well to follow. Now the *Meteor* was originally put forward merely as a chronicle of Rugby doings, and it seems to me that nothing more is required. It is a paper emphatically for Rugby and Rugby-beans, and not being started with a view to profit, why attempt to interest the general public? At the same time, I by no means advocate the exclusion of any article really worth insertion merely because it does not relate to the School or school doings; but I deprecate most earnestly any attempt to

change the paper from the *Meteor* to the *Rugby Magazine*. If we take the articles which appear in other school publications as a fair sample of what we may expect in the *Meteor*, I can hardly think the proposed change would be an improvement.

ECIL.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—Many reasons have been given for the slow time in which the mile is always run at Rugby; but I do not think the real one has yet been given. I believe the mile has never been run at Rugby under 5 minutes; usually it took about 5 minutes 15 seconds. Now this time could be easily improved. I think the reason it is so slowly run is the way in which it is run: several fellows casually trot round the course twice; then go up to the 200 yards post, and then begin to race, and the fastest wins: in fact, the race is not a mile long, but only 200 yards. Now the way a mile ought to be run is quite different. If you watch the University mile runners you see that each, to a great extent, runs independently of the others, really trying to run the mile as fast as he possibly can: one knows he is not a fast runner at a short distance, and therefore runs a good steady pace all the way; another is fast at short distances, and therefore can afford to let the first man go 20 yards a-head as he knows he can "spirt" past him at the finish. Therefore, let each run a mile as fast as he can (I do not by this mean start off at 100 yards' pace): not wait for each other. If one feels he can go faster than the leader, let him do so at once, not wait till the end: let it be a race all the way, not only the last quarter of a mile.

Next, the times in the other races would be improved if the heats were run on one day and the final heat on another. At this time of year there is not so much to do that the Thursday and Saturday afternoons after the Athletics could not be spared for running the final heats.

Lastly, let running shoes be used: one year I remember one fellow very wisely ran in them; instantly everyone began to ask—"Have you seen ——'s shoes? doesn't he think himself a swell?" Running shoes are of the greatest importance, especially on turf; and would make several seconds difference in a long race.

If these hints are taken, I feel sure that the times of our races will be quite equal to

those of the other Public Schools: we send out as good cricketers as they do, why should we not send out as good athletes?

I am, Sir, yours truly,
PHILATHLETIC.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—Would you allow me, through your columns, to make one request of the Stewards for the Athletics? It is that they should make known to the public, in some manner, the way in which it is necessary that the stone should be put. Last year, if I am not mistaken, no run was allowed, but lately it has been discovered that a certain number of steps before the "put" are allowed at both the Universities. Is this run, then, to be allowed; and if so, what distance is it to be? Again, what is the legal "put"? Is a simple throw allowable, or is a certain amount of manœuvring with the arms, such as we saw last year, absolutely required? Hoping that something with regard to this will soon be notified (as I am afraid that your next number will be rather too late for any explanation, as far as this year's Athletics are concerned),

I remain, yours,
* * *

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I am satisfied with the result of the discussion, and have no desire to argue further with "Scotus." Indeed, apart from the personal question, which is not of general interest, there is nothing now at issue between us which can be decided by argument. I am clear there is a grievance; he is sure there is none.

The fact is, our aims are different. In his ideal of a school, one main element is "due subordination;" in mine, it is "perfect freedom." Not lawlessness; not even laxity; but freedom. On this we differ, and shall continue to differ.

The most valuable part of the controversy, I think, is the evidence drawn from the Lower Middles themselves. "Scotus" may despise this protest, but even he cannot impugn its authenticity.

Yours,
COSMOPOLITAN.

24th February.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I wish to draw your attention to some reforms which, I think, are greatly needed with regard to the keeping of Racquet shoes and which would greatly conduce to the comfort and economy of the racquet-playing members of Rugby School. It is an acknowledged practice to make common property of any racquet shoes you may find on the shelves in the dressing room, quite regardless of the comforts of the unhappy possessor, who sometimes is put to considerable inconvenience by this custom. In this way a new pair of shoes may be worn out in an incredibly short space of time, their owner having derived but small use from them. Could we not devise some such plan as this: that doors be put on, at any rate, some portion of the shelves in the dressing room, devoting separate cupboards to the members of the Racquet Club in each house; the cupboards might then be kept locked, the keys being in the keeping of the marker. I think that by this means a great deal of inconvenience and discomfort would be done away with.

I remain Sir, yours sincerely,
A WELL-WISHER OF THE R.C.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—Could not it be arranged that a match at Racquets be played between the School and the Coventry Officers. Such a match was played about two years ago, and I am sure it passed off in the most satisfactory manner. If this could be brought about, it would give those who would play in the Public Schools' Racquets, if we are entered, an opportunity of playing together, and meeting someone in a game with whom they are not so well acquainted. I think we ought to have this match to endeavour to regain the laurels which we lost when we played before.

I am, yours,
A RACQUET.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I venture to reply to the first article in your last number, for, as it is not written in the first person plural, like an ordinary editorial article, it appears to be only a letter, and so I hope I may be allowed to make a few remarks on it.

Excuse my apparent rudeness, but a change is *not* needed in the *Meteor*. You say "it is so intensely Rugbeian, that outside the small circle of ourselves and Old Rugbeians (not such a very small circle, I think), there are very few people whom it interests." Allow me most humbly to suggest that it is mainly owing to the fact of the *Meteor* being "so intensely Rugbeian" that it owes its success hitherto. If it were not "intensely Rugbeian," I am sure very few Old Rugbeians, or present Rugbeians either, would take it in at all. I can answer for your Cambridge Subscribers (who at present number about 30), for I have heard many of them say that *the* thing which makes the *Meteor* so interesting is that it puts in so many little scraps of news about the School, and gives accounts of Matches, &c. We Old Rugbeians are very grateful for news of Rugby, and our houses, I can assure you.

The *Meteor* was surely never intended to be a magazine to amuse vain little boy's mammas! I am not aware of any School having a Magazine for that purpose—nor was the *Meteor* intended for a Ladies' newspaper that I am aware of. By all means let some one start a new Magazine for that purpose, and let him take that excellent paper the *Queen* as his model, but spare your subscribers from poems or essays, even though these poems and essays emanate from the brain of some eloquent member of the Debating Society.

Far be it from me to cast aspersions on your contemporaries, but I very much doubt whether a Schoolboy's ideas on the Irish Church, or any political subjects, are worth printing, much less reading: and, though the School doubtless contains many a poet in embryo, for goodness sake let the poets remain in embryo till they have left Rugby; let them content themselves now with writing for the English Verse Prize, and then when they have left, let them astonish the world. We can read the soul-stirring odes which flow from the pen of "Trebla" in a contemporary—let us be therewith content.

Let me only say in conclusion, and I only repeat what others have said before, that I am convinced that the sale of the *Meteor* will steadily decline from the day it changes its present system. Past and present Rugbeians alike will cease to take it in, and it will thus soon inevitably share the fate of its predecessors—the *New Rugby Magazine*, the *New Rugbeian*, and others now deceased.

But if it continues as it is now (and why not?) there is no earthly reason why the *Meteor* should not last as long as Rugby itself lasts.

Hoping you will insert this in order to obtain from other correspondents their opinion on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

PRAXIS.

Cambridge, Feb. 10th, 1869.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—We have heard sufficient lamentations and complaints about the exterior of the New Pavilion. Let us now give a thought to the interior, which may do what it can to redeem its outward appearance. And in talking about this there is one thing which the Old Pavilion always seemed to me to lack. This was—some record of the great matches of the year. To be sure we had small cards of the various scores nailed on the wall, but I think that we might make a little more than that out of our Marlborough match. Why should we not have a board put up in the New Pavilion with the results of all our Marlborough matches painted up? At the same time that we might have memorials of the prowess of bygone days, we might have another board recording the names of those who have made over 100 in any foreign match, with their score appended.

Hoping you will excuse any errors which I may have committed in the course of this epistle,

Believe me, yours truly,

RUGBÆA.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—I have often thought it strange, not to say unjust, that while those who represent their School in Cricket and at Wimbledon receive a badge, which distinguishes them from all others, those who play in the "School Twenty" at Football are utterly neglected in this respect.

Now, Sir, it has always been my impression that Football is the game of which every Rugbeian, great and small, is most proud. I do not mean in any way to disparage the Cricket Eleven when I say this. But I must say, that when Rugby is mentioned, Football more than anything else is connected with it. Why, then, should not the

School Twenty be distinguished by some badge worn either on the straw, or on the jersey, or on both? I have not, myself, thought of one, but that is quite easily settled, if it is only decided to have one at all. But, moreover, the Cricket Eleven, the Wimbledon Eleven, the best players at Fives and at Racquets, are all handed down to memory by having their names painted on boards in the Pavilion and in the Racquet-court. But no such honour is shewn to the Twenty of the year. We are assured that there is before long to be a gymnasium built, and no one can deny that Football may be reckoned under the head of gymnastics as a healthy and invigorating exercise. Why, then, should not the names of the successive School Twenties be painted up in the new gymnasium? Hoping, before the end of this term, to see that something has been done in this respect.

I remain,
Yours truly,
TOBY.

"RADICAL" ON BIG SIDE LEVEES.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

DEAR SIR,—IF, as in your last leader you seemed to hint, the present constitution of Big-Side Levée is supported only because nobody attempts to come forward with anything better to take its place, I beg to suggest that some member of B. S. L. propose the appointment of a committee to devise and report to the Levée on some scheme for its reorganisation; and for their consideration I would submit the following plan:—

In place of the existing Levée a new one might be constituted on some such principles as these, viz.,—That representatives be elected annually by the different houses within a week after the beginning of every Michaelmas term, in the proportion of one representative to every ten fellows in the house (*e. g.*, five for a house of 50), with one also for any remainder exceeding half of ten (*e. g.*, six for house of 56).

This plan would constitute a Levée for the whole school, consisting of from 50 to 52 members: a more manageable body than the present.

Further, that each of these members be elected by the whole house; I mean by that every fellow in the house should have as many votes as there are members to be elected from his house. New fellows should be included in the number of fellows in the house, but need not have a vote their first term.

To minimize the chances of party spirit or ill-feeling springing up in any house, it would be advisable that the voting should be by ballot. It might be made a point of etiquette that nobody should be asked for whom he had voted; and if necessary the returning officer for each house might be chosen from another house, to reduce the danger of the handwriting of the voters being recognised.

I think the head of each house, and house eleven, should be *ex-officio* members of the Levée, but that they should be included among the number of each house's representatives, so that in house of 50, returning five members, two should be members *ex-officio*, the remaining three by election.

Other proposals are, that the head of the school be *ex-officio* Chairman or Speaker of the Levée as at present; that the Levée thus annually elected to hold office till the following October Term, and consisting of a tenth-part of the School, as representatives of the rest, hold meetings at fixed intervals and on a particular day—say the Monday in every middle week,—and that any member absent more than once out of four times for other cause than illness or temporary absence from Rugby, shall be held to have forfeited his seat, but be eligible for re-election.

That at these general meetings it shall be binding on any member, if requested, to present, and on the Levée to take into consideration, any petition or suggestion in writing, signed by more than two members of the School, not members of the Levée.

That a clerk or secretary of the Levée be appointed, who shall read out all such petitions when presented, and who, during the sitting of the Levée, shall enter in a minute book the purport of such petitions and the consideration given to them by the members, and shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Levée, and read out and preserve all reports presented by committees, and forward an accurate account of the transactions of the Levée for publication in the next edition of the *Meteor*.

That it be in the power of the Levée, on the motion of any of its members, to appoint a committee to consider any question referred to it, to collect evidence and to draw up schemes for the approval of the Levée; due regard being had in the nomination of committees to the right of the members from each house to claim representation on them, if they think it necessary.

Further, that these committees may either be appointed for a year to manage one branch of the School business, such as the football committee, or may be appointed as temporary commissioners, for

the purpose (for instance) of drawing up a scheme for the reform of our system of Athletics; but that in either case they be appointed by the Levée, be responsible to it for any course of action they take, and require its sanction to confirm any new regulation they make. The Levée may decide when they appoint the committee how much power it shall enjoy; but it shall be bound to report all its decisions to the Levée, and even when it has received the fullest powers its decision may be overturned by a vote of two-thirds of the Levée against it.

Any member should have the power to summon a special meeting of the Levée, according to the existing rules; but the reports of the committees need not necessarily be produced except at the ordinary general meeting. To go into questions of minor importance, it is perhaps desirable that members of the Levée should hold their meetings sitting, instead of as at present, standing; that they should all uncover their heads when the Chairman takes his seat, and that they should observe such formalities as are customary in public meetings to secure to every member free speech and a fair hearing, so long as he speaks to the point.

A compact representative body of this sort, elected afresh every year by the votes of the whole School, meeting regularly to receive the opinions, objections, and grievances of any section of the School, with their procedure faithfully published in the *Meteor*, and with power to inspect, criticise,

and legislate on every part of the School system, from the official accounts of the Head of the School, to the neglect of the proper authorities to keep the School Bath in a respectable condition, or the want of sufficient sawdust at the Fives Courts on a wet day, such a body ought to secure facilities of legislation and efficiency of administration much beyond those of the present cumbrous system of Big-Side Levées.

It can be no subject for rejoicing to me, as a Radical, that any part of the Government of the School should be in danger of slipping from the hands of the majority into those of an irresponsible oligarchy of football committees or their like, admirably though they have worked hitherto; and I hope that none of my "myrmidons," if such beings exist, will ever triumph in any thing hostile to the glory or prosperity of Rugby.

Yours sincerely,

RADICAL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HERO OF ROMANCE.—Your suggestion has been frequently made, but is, we fear, impracticable.

A PLAYER AT PRINCE'S.—You are mistaken. We were entered originally, but were not allowed to play.

A. C. W. H. A.—If you will refer to our 3rd No., published in March, 1867, you will find that your proposal then emanated from "Radical."

THE RIFLE CORPS ACCOUNTS.

The following are the accounts of the Rifle Corps since May.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Subscriptions of May Term		53	0	0
Ditto Michaelmas Term ...		63	0	0
Sale of Carbines, &c., &c.		38	9	4

£155 9 4

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Sergeant Instructor		64	0	0
Expeditions to Warwick, Windsor, and Sutton Coldfield		35	19	7
The Marker		13	15	0
Tailor's bill for 70 Havresacs, Belts colouring, &c.		25	2	9
To Hollis and Sons, Birmingham, for 3 new Hay Rifles		10	0	0
Incidental Expenses		5	9	8
		154	7	0
Balance in favour of the Corps		1	2	4

£155 9 4

The Government Grant of £98 is expected to arrive in a few months.