



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

No. 26.

RUGBY, MARCH 18th, 1869.

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

AGAIN the Cricketing Season is approaching, and again we all ask one another the customary question "What are to be the Matches of the year?" Are the Marlborough Eleven satisfied at last with their succession of defeats, or do they again wish us to sacrifice our chance of getting up a Harrow match to the desire of keeping up old associations? For it is notorious that the real reason which prompts Harrow to keep us out of the Public School Cricket is now merely the fear that we may wish to drag our poor relations into their august society. We do not wish to interfere with the judicious despotism of the Head of the Eleven; we are quite certain that whatever he arranges will be for the best; but we would suggest that this year he might say to the Harrovians that we are willing to forego the Marlborough match if they are willing to play us themselves. We have beaten Marlborough too often; Cheltenham has now equal claims upon us; and Cheltenham has a right to say to us "Either give up the Marlborough match, or else play both of us; our claims are equal, and we are generally the stronger Eleven." Now, to this what are we to reply? We play Marlborough because we are bound to it through Mr. BRADLEY: are we not equally bound—nay, is not present Rugby more bound, to Mr. JEX BLAKE? We play Marlborough because it is a large and successful School; is not Cheltenham much larger, and equally successful in its own line? And is it not harmful to the School Eleven to go on playing a School whom they have so often beaten, even though they may be clever and intellectual, gentlemanly and pleasant? Is

it not moreover too great a sacrifice for us to make, when we are asked to give up all chance of the Harrow match, merely to beat Marlborough an eighth time?

Nor do we see what answer Harrow can make to such a challenge. We should like definitely to know whether the Headmaster of the School objects to the match. If the Headmaster, we must bow to his mystic authority; if the School, we should like to know their reasons. The old objection, that Harrow does not know where Rugby is, must have disappeared since the last Public School Commission. We have been examined together, as far as School organization goes; why should we not meet now in the cricket field? Surely those Harrovians who value Cricket are not content with only the Eton match. They must wish to settle our standing challenge by meeting us and, if possible, defeating us. If the nation has recognized us as one of the seven schools, it is impossible for us to take our stand among the remaining three thousand.

THE *Meteor*, from its airy position, has already beheld its third Athletics, and, with them, has beheld sundry great improvements; and first, it must congratulate the public in general on a step in the right direction with regard to dress, though the step can by no means be said as yet to be satisfactorily completed. For though the legs are less hampered by knickerbockers than by trousers, yet still they are hampered to a certain extent. It is also delighted at the Mile having been at last accomplished in less than five minutes, and, as a parallel to the improved