



The Meteor.

Edited by Members of Rugby School.

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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

performances in that race, it would cite the time of the Half-Mile, and also of the Two Hundred yards, the time in the latter being, it may be safely asserted, wholly unprecedented. The excellence of the High Jump may next be noted, and the result of the Putting may be quoted as an instance of the growing powers of the Rugbeian biceps. It regrets the unavoidable absence of the Three Mile Race, but thinks that the 120 yards Hurdle Race an excellent substitute, inasmuch as it was better calculated to entertain the members of the fair sex, who, braving frost and cold winds, graced the close with their presence. It was disappointed on seeing the small field of starters for the Old Rugbeian Race, but it reminded itself of the superior attractions afforded by the Boat Race, and of the fact that the Cambridge Term was not yet concluded, and that the terrors of Little-go were impending over several of the School's most ardent admirers; and it forgave them for their absence. On the whole the *Meteor* is inclined to be proud of the Athletic powers of the School, whose tutelary deity it is, and its only hope is that the successes of 1870 may eclipse those of 1869.

Given at this our Castle in the air, on this the Seventeenth day of March, A.D., One Thousand, Eight Hundred, and Sixty-nine. As witness our hand and seal.

THE ATHLETIC GAMES.

FIRST DAY, MARCH 15TH.

Flat Race, 200 Yards.

First Heat—Brocklehurst, 1; Chaplin, 2.

Second Heat—Dudgeon, 1; Griffiths, 2.

Third Heat—Riley, 1; Lawrence, 2.

Fourth Heat—Southam, 1; Tubb, 2.

FINAL HEAT—Southam, 1; Gwyer, 2.—Won easily, Gwyer gaining second honours, after winning a challenge from Tubb. Time, 21 secs.

Flat Race, 200 Yards, under 5 ft. 7 in.

First Heat—Blacklock, 1; Anstey, 2.

Second Heat—Gardner, 1; Ellis, 2.

Third Heat—Shirley, 1; Plumb, 2.

Fourth Heat—Warner, 1; Vecqueray, 2.

FINAL HEAT—Warner, 1; Vecqueray, 2. Time, 22½ secs.

Gardner was second in the Final Heat, but on being challenged by Vecqueray, resigned.

Bright's High Jumping.

Tennant, 1; Hudson, 2. Height, 5 ft. 1 in.—The winner was easily first, clearing 3 in. more than anyone else. This is a great improvement on last year's height. Brownfield tied Hudson for 2nd, but on a subsequent trial was beaten.

Mile Race.

First Heat—Kough, 1; Bush, 2; Gooding, 3.—Brierly made the running for nearly two laps, but then dropped behind, leaving Kough with the lead, which he easily retained till the end. Time, 5 min. 16 secs.

Second Heat—Lomax, 1; Scott and Walker (æq.), 2.—This was a splendid race from first to last, Lomax principally making the running, followed closely by Scott till the end of the second lap, when Scott took the lead; Lomax, however, passed him again about 100 yards from home, and finally won a ding-dong race by 3 yards. Walker, by a fine spurt, got equal with Scott on the tape, making a dead heat for second place. Time, 5 min. 9 secs.

FINAL HEAT—Walker, 1; Francis, 2; Kough, 3. Time, 4 min. 57 secs.—Gooding went off with the lead, but was soon overtaken by Gwyer, who made the pace very hot for the first two laps. Here Walker spurted to the front, followed by Kough and Francis; these three ran a splendid race for the last 200 yards, but Walker kept his lead, and won by a three yards, hardly a yard separating the second and third. Lomax was fourth. This is the fastest mile race that has been run at Rugby, and, considering that it was run on turf, the time was exceedingly good.

Flat Race, Half-a-Mile, under 5 ft. 4 in.

First Heat—Cobbold, 1; Benham, 2.—Won by a fine and well-judged spurt in the last 50 yards.

Second Heat—Groom, 1; Field, 2.

Third Heat—Lomax mi., 1; Masterman, 2.

Fourth Heat—Shirley, 1; Warner, 2.—The pace in this heat was much better than in any of the others. Shirley ran in very good form, taking a long lead at first, and winning easily.

FINAL HEAT—Shirley, 1; Cobbold and Groom (æq.), 2. Time, 2 min. 18 secs.—Shirley again took the lead, Groom running second, which positions were maintained throughout, Cobbold, who waited rather too long, just making a dead heat with Groom.

Throwing the Cricket Ball.

Francis, 1; Gardner, 2. Distance, 87 yards.—We cannot account for this distance, as both the winner and several of the other competitors have greatly exceeded it in practice.

Flat Race, 200 Yards, under 5 ft. 2 in.

First Heat—Arbuthnot, 1; Carnac, 2.

Second Heat—Collin, 1; Field ma., 2.

Third Heat—Newton, 1; Lomax mi., 2.

Fourth Heat—Peters, 1; Nicholson, 2.

Fifth Heat—Stock, 1.

FINAL HEAT—Newton, 1; Collin, 2. Time, 24 secs.—Collin was challenged by Lomax mi., but kept his place.

Half-Mile Flat.

First Heat—Francis, 1; Currie, 2.

Second Heat—Kough, 1; Isherwood, 2.

Third Heat—Lomax ma., 1; Mackinlay, 2.

Fourth Heat—Plumb, 1; Sidgwick mi., 2.

Fifth Heat—Walker, 1; Vecqueray, 2.

FINAL HEAT—Gwyer, 1; Kough, 2. Time, 2 min. 5 secs.—Gwyer soon took the lead, and increasing it in the second lap, won by 15 yards,