

there is an annual cup value £2, and money-prizes for 2nd and 3rd. There were six at the start, of whom Walker took the lead from the first, accomplishing the distance in 4m. 55sec., the second place being kept throughout by Lefroy. The rest all ran it under six minutes. The order was—1st, Walker; 2nd, Lefroy; 3rd, Byrne; 4th, Stokes; 5th, Buckland, ma.—House Single Racquets: 1st, Walker; 2nd Peel. Double Racquets, 1st, Walker and Peel. House Double Hand-Fives, 1st, Buckland, ma., Heather.

REV. L. F. BURROWS'S.—The House Steeple-chases were run on Saturday, 27th February. There were eight starters for the open one. Soon after the commencement Riley, Michell, and Bigg, ma. took the lead, and continued in that order until the last jump, where Bigg passed the other two, and won by about ten yards: Riley second. For the one under 5ft. 3in. six started. Bigg, mi., owing to his mistaking the course, lost a considerable distance at the beginning, which, however, he soon made up, and won easily by fifty or sixty yards; Holland second.

SCHOOL HOUSE.—The House Steeple-chases took place on Saturday, February 27th. In the open one a very fair number came to the scratch. Sidgwick, mi. took the lead at first, and made the pace very hot; he was closely followed by Moberly, Warner, and Gooding. About half way Gooding came to the front, but unfortunately diverged slightly from the course, and gave up the race. Warner and Moberly then led, and, after twice changing places, the latter eventually won by about ten yards. Warner second; Ellis a good third. In the small one Taylor ma. kept the lead for about three quarters of the way, when he missed the course and dropped out of the race, which was pluckily won by Masterman; Field ma. second, and Bertran De Lis third.

OLD RUGBEIAN OBITUARY.

DEATH OF THE OLDEST RUGBEIAN.—The death is announced of Sir Arthur Benjamin Clifton, K.C.B., Knight Companion of the Royal Guelphic Order: Lieutenant General, and Colonel of the 1st Royal Dragoons. He was entered at Rugby in 1783, and in his first half-year fought a battle with the celebrated Walter Savage Landor. He entered the army in 1794, and was present at the engagements of Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Vittoria, and Toulouse: and was

one of the twenty-five Rugbeians engaged at Waterloo. Peninsula Medal with three clasps, Gold War Medal for Vittoria and Fuentes d'Onoro, and Waterloo Medal. His two elder brothers, seventh and eighth baronets, were also educated at Rugby.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

The *Cheltonian* has the temerity to begin its number for March with a novel on School life. There is hardly any School news at all; none of importance.

The *Etonian* for February 25th contains an account of the Steeplechases; the winner was Johnstone. The floods have again interfered with the rowing. The same publication for March 11th gives an account of the procession of boats. The mile was won in 4 min. 45½ secs. by Forbes, Patton being second. The two mile walking race was won by Moss, the time being 17 min. 50 secs. The cricket ball was thrown 100 yards by Parker. The beagles have met several times, and they have had some good runs.

The *Marlburian*, in the absence of school news, is filled chiefly by the doings of the Marlborough Nomads. There are only three members of their XI. left, viz., R. Leach, W. E. Leach, and H. B. Carlyon.

The *Oxford Undergraduates' Journal* gives an account of the Torpids.

The Report of the Debating Society reached us too late for insertion.

OXFORD HONOURS.—J. A. Godley, Balliol College, *Proxime accessit* for the Ireland Scholarship.

We omitted to state in our last Number that S. Lupton (C.R.) Ch. Ch., was *Proxime accessit* for the Christ Church Physical Science Junior Studentship.

Hon. F. H. Baring, Scholar of Corpus, Oxford: *Proxime accessit*, A. B. Haslam.

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,—Before proceeding to the main object of my letter, allow me to make one remark on a subject discussed in your two last numbers. It seems to me that the only fault that

can be found with your paper is that it does not quite sufficiently satisfy the craving for School news, naturally felt by Old Rugbeians. My present cause of complaint is, that in attempting to defend Big-Side Levée, I am put to serious inconvenience, owing to your having omitted to inform your readers of the nature of the "recent appeal to a higher authority," which I see so freely commented on in your last number. The provoking part is, that everyone else seems to be perfectly well up in the matter, probably because everyone else has the good luck to live at Oxford, or in some part of the world more enlightened than that inhabited by your correspondent.

Perhaps, under these circumstances of exceptional ignorance, it would be better for me not to trouble you with my ideas, but to me "Radical's" proposal seems so illiberal and so ill-devised, that I cannot resist the temptation of attacking it.

I have always thought it highly undesirable that the swells (I use the word for want of a better) at Rugby should have any more power than they have at present,—perhaps because I was never one myself. Undoubtedly a fair amount of social pre-eminence is their due; but it appears to me that under the existing order of things they enjoy that due to the full, and surely it would be a pity to introduce any measure that would widen, instead of narrowing, the gap that separates them from the rest of the School. Such being the case, I cannot but protest against the scheme drawn up by "Radical," for I believe his assembly would have the dubious merit of comprising among its members almost the *whole* of the swells, and hardly anybody else. At a rough guess, I should say there are about 50 or 60 individuals in the School, to whom the title would be more or less applicable. Of course I do not pretend to say that every single one of these would gain admission to the elective parliament, for the simple reason that they are not very evenly distributed through the houses. But can one of your readers doubt for a moment that, in spite of the ballot and other safeguards, each house would not return the three greatest swells it possessed, if only to escape ridicule, and insure, if possible, the opinions of its representatives being respected? Really, Sir, this proposal of "Radical's" is identical with that propounded by him two years ago, in this important respect, that it would have the effect of excluding from the acting governing body of the School

all not skilled in Cricket and Football. "Radical's" Parliament would, I admit, nominally represent the whole School, and Big-Side Levée does not profess to do so. In theory it would doubtless be better if every member of the School had a vote, but in practice, I fear, it would be found that the lower forms were sadly ignorant on many of the subjects about which they were required to express an opinion. With the Upper School the case is different, for though, perhaps, many of its members are not very proficient at games, nearly all have sufficient experience to know what is advantageous for those games, and the few who have not are a very small minority. And, moreover, the line separating those who are members of Big-Side from those who are not, seems to be founded on a fair and intelligible principle, and at the same time to be insuperable to very few. I leave it to you, Sir, to decide which body best represents the various classes and opinions of the School,—Big-Side Levée as it now stands, or the assembly proposed by "Radical," elected though it be by universal suffrage.

Should the answer be in favour of Big-Side Levée, the question arises as to whether it is desirable that games should be managed by a body representing all classes, or only by those specially proficient in them. In my mind the answer is sufficiently clear, namely, that all classes should take part in the deliberations,—the swells to point out in what way the honour of the School may be best attained (and incidentally in what way their own interests may be best secured), and the *plebs*. to protect themselves, and prevent too many of their privileges being taken away in the name of promoting the glory of Rugby. I know that Big-Side Levée is not always very independent, and does often vote precisely in the way that a much more narrowly constituted body might be expected to vote; but I think this evil is not irremediable, and at any rate there is at least this to be said for the old system, that when a change must be made—as was the case last year, when it was thought expedient to grant to 36 fellows a monopoly during three days of the week of the Racquet Court, to secure an hour of which in former times there used to be such exciting races after First Lesson,—the innovation comes more gracefully in the form of a concession, than of an assumption by those who are to profit by it.

To go into some of the other details of your correspondent's scheme, I must begin by

stating that I cannot see in what respect a body of 50 can be more manageable than 180, for even 50 is far too large a number to enjoy the advantages possessed by a committee of 5 or 6 consulting together over a measure, and it could hardly be convened by a less formal notice than the present body. Besides, it seems probable that the voting would be just as much by houses as it is at present, for I think, in most cases, the five representatives of each house would vote *en masse*.

Then as to meeting every three weeks—this might do very well at first, but members would soon begin to find it inconvenient to be tied down to a particular day, and, most likely, would soon throw off all shackles and meet whenever they pleased and no oftener. And besides, if there is enough vigour in the leading spirits of the school to meet every three weeks under the new system, why is there not to call Levées under the old?

With regard to Committees to take evidence, the present Levée is perfectly competent, I imagine, to appoint them whenever it chooses, and the suggestion seems worth its consideration. But I object to Committees to consider questions and draw up schemes, on account of the danger of their becoming independent oligarchies.

Having now completed the statement of my objections to "Radical's" proposal, I will venture to lay before you one of my own. It is that the present constitution should be maintained subject to two important alterations in the procedure at Levées.

I. On the demand of any member present let the voting be by ballot. This suggestion will probably be objected to on the ground of its slowness, but you must remember that most likely it would not be resorted to on every occasion, and when it was I do not think it would take much longer than the present system of calling over. It might be worked as follows:—Let two ballot boxes be procured and held at each side of the Fifth School door. Then let the voters pass out in two lines, and let each as he passed receive a bean from the doorkeeper, and drop it into the Aye or No side of whichever box he happened to be nearest. After the voting was over members might return to hear the result, or to take part in new deliberations, and, meantime, the Sixth might use their authority to keep order both inside the School and outside. I am afraid this is a very clumsy scheme, but it is the only one I can think of whereby voting by ballot could

be got over with any degree of speed. Perhaps some of the new Schools may furnish a debating chamber with a lobby rather more convenient than the cloisters, but I am afraid none of the old will. The day will come, I hope, when fellows, no matter what their capacity for games, will not be afraid to speak and vote openly at Big-Side Levée, but at present they, at least, may be enabled to record a silent vote without fear of the consequences.

II. Let fellows be at liberty to ask the Head of the School questions (*e.g.* as to whose duty it was to keep the School bath), due notice of course being given him. This would have much the same effect as "Radical's" plan of written petitions, and would be less troublesome: and on the information obtained the questioner might at once frame a motion. It is needless for me to suggest that notice of a question should be counted sufficient notice of the motion to be immediately framed thereon in order to satisfy the rule (which I believe exists) directing no motion to be introduced without previous notice. Of course, in addition to these two proposals, I advocate strongly the growth of a feeling in the School in favour of freer speaking at Levées, and I would suggest that reasons for or against motions should be stated more explicitly than is often the case, and that the whole proceedings should be fuller.

You will see, Sir, that while strenuously opposed to "Radical's" plans generally, I have not hesitated to take some hints from them in forming mine, and I acknowledge the obligation I am under to him. Apologising for the length of this letter,

I remain, your obedient Servant,
MACEDONICUS.

To the Editor of the Meteor.

SIR,—I have hitherto refrained from writing anything on the subject which has, up to the present time, occupied "Scotus" and "Cosmopolitan," but seeing that the latter, convinced of the impossibility of persuading his opponent, and equally assured of not being convinced on his side, has declined to argue further, I venture to put in my say.

I am myself a departed Lower Middle; and the sarcasms of "Scotus" have stung me sharply. I know I shall not be allowed to revisit Rugby till long after my contemporaries have left, and my name is forgotten; but is the privilege of considering myself as

(I dare not say an Old Rugbeian) having been a member of the School to be denied me because I could not decline *Amo* without a mistake, was low in the School, and not a swell at either Football or Cricket? (though, I may remark by the way, one may be very fond of both and yet be only in the Second Twenty, or Three Belows). I was not there long; I was not a swell, and I was not in the Sixth, but only in the Lower Middle. But I do love, and always shall love Rugby, in spite of all these crimes.

Again, but few spend their whole boyhood at Rugby or even all their schooldays, and not a few, even Swells, and the still larger number of Contributors to the glory and credit of Rugby, get their most pleasing sensations elsewhere.

As to the exact number of the "brave, honest, and kindly" people who leave Rugby in the Lower Middles, that has nothing to do with the question. There are quite enough to make it worth while at least to try and turn the current of popular feeling out of its present uncharitable course.

"Cosmopolitan" did not strike deep enough. The cruelty does not extend merely to the Lower Middles; it reaches up into the Upper Middles, nay even to the august Upper School, for I know several fellows in that part of the School, and many in the Upper Middles, who are deterred from revisiting their old School (though they would gladly do so) by this unjust and unreasonable custom, whose existence cannot be denied, and ought not to be ignored. As for the time to which "Scotus" memory carries him: if he means that happy time when whistling, except from the lips of the most potent Swells, was considered a crime for which no punishment was too severe, let us hope that no future Rugbeian's memory will ever carry him back to such times. The Sixth can do their duty quite as decidedly without setting unfortunate new boys lines, ostensibly for making a noise but really for whistling, and using the pockets which his tailor has supplied him with; and can live at the same time without looking upon the Lower Middles as beings of an inferior order to themselves.

I am, Sir, etc., etc.,

P.M.

To the Editor of the *Meteor*.

DEAR SIR,—In fear and trembling I awaited your last number, and happy was I to find that the foreboded change had not taken place.

I belong to that body of Old Rugbeians which, being far away from Rugby, are if possible more attached to it than those who have greater opportunities of revisiting and hearing of it. The change contemplated in the *Meteor* was, as I understand, to combine School news with other articles of more general interest. This would be ruin. Not because, as one of your correspondents asserts, a schoolboy's ideas on the Irish Church would not be worth very much. This is absurd; he would very possibly, nay, even probably, have some excellent crude ideas on the matter, which it would do him good to express and see criticised. We should not, doubtless, see the close and subtle logic of a great philosopher, but what then? Napoleon declared that "Philosophers would ruin any country if allowed to have their way for three months." No: not on account of the inability of the writer would I condemn the appearance of such productions in the *Meteor*, but because the *Meteor* is not the proper place for them. Those who take in the *Meteor* to read about their School (and they are a large number) would be vexed at being defrauded of a couple of columns in order that such articles might appear. Surely there is enough School news to keep those eight pages going without turning to other matters, and let us charitably assign that terrible article to the wretched weather and scarcity of news at that dull season.

The manner in which the Athletic Cup is decided certainly requires improvement. A badge for the School Twenty is another question that has very properly been mooted. Big-Side Levée only wants a finishing blow to knock it from its very skaky position. The arrangements for playing house matches might be improved, since the best matches are now played in the worst weather. Surely, a little healthy controversy on these points would supply the *Meteor* with food for a short time at least.

In the name of a large body of Old Rugbeians then, I must request that the *Meteor* continue as it is. At present its basis is sound, but whether this would be so if the proposed change were adopted is a question. Let past failures be a warning of the fate of Magazines. Reformers, pause before you take this fatal step, remember that

"*facilis descensus Averno*
Sed revocare gradum
Hoc opus, hic labor est."

In this matter at least let me sign myself

CONSERVATIVE.

FIVES AND RACQUETS.

A Racquet Handicap was got up at the beginning of this Term, entrance 2s. 6d., with the following results :—

1ST TIES.

Gardner, ma. beat Bayley, giving him 2 hands and 4 points each game.
 Pearson beat Westfeldt, ma., neither giving any points.
 Walker, ma. beat Boyd, giving him 7 points each game.
 Warner ma. beat Isherwood ma., the latter giving 5 points each game.
 Collin beat Weston, the latter giving 7 points each game.
 Gwyer ma. beat Montgomery, giving him 2 hands and 5 points each game.
 Moberly beat Baring, giving him 3 points each game.
 Plumb ma. beat Basset, giving him 3 points each game.
 Milne beat Buckland ma., giving him 3 points each game.
 Collingridge beat Ogilvie ma., giving him 6 points each game.

2ND TIES.

Gwyer ma., beat Collin, giving him 2 hands and 7 points each game.
 Collingridge beat Walker ma., giving him four 4 points each game.
 Warner ma. beat Gardner ma., the latter giving 2 hands and 3 points each game.
 Pearson beat Plumb ma., giving him 2 hands and 4 points each game.
 Milne beat Moberly, giving him 4 points each game.

3RD TIES.

Pearson beat Collingridge, giving him 5 points each game.
 Gwyer ma., beat Milne, giving 6 points each game.
 Warner ma.

4TH TIES.

Pearson beat Warner ma., giving him 7 points each game.

Gwyer ma.

5TH TIES.

Gwyer ma. plays Pearson, giving him 6 points each game.

1ST TIES.

SINGLE RACQUETS.

Walker ma. beat Baring.
 Gwyer ma. " Southam.
 Isherwood ma. " Lushington ma.
 Pearson " Buckland ma.
 Moberly " Collingridge.
 Weston " Peel.
 Sidgwick mi. " Bayley.
 Milne " Westfeldt ma.
 Gardner ma. " Warner ma.
 Plumb ma.

DOUBLE RACQUETS.

Warner, ma. } beat { Westfeldt ma.
 Lushington ma. } { Moberly.
 Pearson } " { Collingridge
 Westfeldt mi. } " { Riley.
 Bayley } " { Peel
 Southam } " { Walker ma.
 Gardner ma. } " { Milne
 Gwyer ma. } " { Bassett.
 Isherwood ma. } " { Weston
 Buckland ma. } " { Baring.

DOUBLE ETON HAND-FIVES.

Isherwood ma. } beat { Westfeldt mi.
 Gardner ma. } { Ormerod.
 Weston } " { Norton
 Baring } " { De Bunsen.
 Walker ma. } " { Westfeldt ma.
 Gwyer ma. } " { Moberly.
 Peake } " { Collingridge.
 Buckland, ma. } " { Riley.
 Francis ma. } " { Lushington, ma.
 Warner ma. } " { Browne ma.

RUGBY SINGLE HAND-FIVES.

Buckland ma. beat Phayre.
 Dugdale " Collingridge.
 Westfeldt ma. " Baring.
 Gwyer ma. " Francis ma.
 Walker ma. " Moberly.
 Brown ma. " Isherwood ma.
 Weston " Wilson.
 Peake " Ogilvie ma..
 Riley " Unna.
 Norton " De Bunsen.

Warner ma.

RUGBY DOUBLE HAND-FIVES.

Peake } beat { Browne ma.
 Dugdale } { Lushington ma.
 Buckland ma. } " { Montgomery.
 Isherwood ma. } " { Robertson ma.
 Moberly } " { Weston
 Westfeldt ma. } " { Baring.
 Francis ma. } " { Collingridge
 Warner ma. } " { Phayre.
 Gwyer ma. } " { Ormerod
 Walker ma. } " { Westfeldt mi.
 Chappell } " { Norton
 Riley } " { De Bunsen.

BAT-FIVES.

Moberly beat Tubb.
 Pearson " Westfeldt mi.
 Miller " Sidgwick mi.
 Gardner ma. " Gwyer ma.
 Collingridge " Cholmondely ma.
 Milne.

Weston and Warner ma. and Lushington ma. and Ogilvie ma. did not play off their ties by the appointed day, and were therefore scratched.