

for which already amount to £1,401. The courts will be finished by June next.

T. W. Willes, Captain of the School Eleven some ten or eleven years ago, has been training eleven aborigines of Australia to play cricket, and so well do they play, their "eye" being marvellous, that they were to leave Sydney on March 1st., and may be expected in England in May, to try their fortunes at Lord's and the Oval. We are sure Mr. Willes would be much gratified if a match could be arranged between his team and the School Eleven.

The Concert will take place on Easter Monday; a trio from the German entitled "When Meteor lights dance o'er the glen," and Balfe's "Laughing Trio" are likely to be among the most effective pieces; among the most popular glees will be *Integer vice*.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

We cannot be answerable for the opinions of our correspondents.

The next *Meteor* will be published on the second Thursday after the Easter Holidays. Contributions should always be sent in by the Thursday preceding the day of publication, written on one side of the paper only.

Contributions will be received at the *Advertiser* Office, or at Mr. Pepperday's, under cover to the "Editor of the *Meteor*."

### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Investigator." You are hard upon the Middle School.

"7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ." Your statistics can scarcely be correct; you cannot have seen 98 pairs of hands without gloves in chapel on the Sunday you mentioned.

"O.R." Thank you: but we have no room for your paragraph.

"J. H." The *Times* is more adapted for your complaint than the *Meteor*.

"W. M." Sit down and count 200; and your mind will be less confused.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Would it not be as well if the farce of playing the Big-side Piematch as a trial for the Twenty-two were at once abolished. Some of those tried did not get even one innings, while several who got in high contributed 0 to the score. If the Twenty-two is to be made up by the head of the Eleven's reminiscences of last year's play (of which he generally knows very little), and by the characters given by those who send in the names, it would be better not to deceive fellows with

the expectation of playing well in the Piematch, and getting their dark blue in consequence.—I am, Sir, yours,

HOUSE ELEVEN.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—Though there is no doubt that your paper is a great and glorious institution, and one that ought to be kept up, yet there is one thing about it which I object to. Everybody writes their ideas for improving and altering the old institutions of the School. If matters go on like this, and everybody's hints are carried out as quickly as those in your paper have been as yet, I am afraid that soon all the old customs will be changed, and we shall see the School re-modelled. For instance, I was sorry to hear that the Steeple-chase Course was changed, after it had been what it was for many years. I suppose this was done on account of the letter of a Correspondent of yours. Would it not be better to have two Steeple-chases, one on the old course, and the other on the new? I am sure the School would not mind having another allowance stopped, and it seems a pity to entirely lose sight of the old plan.

A CONSERVATIVE.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

DEAR SIR,—If "A Radical" will take the trouble to consult a School List for this Term, he will find that out of 182 members in the Upper School, more than 130 play Football either in House Twenties or Below Caps. Surely if this be the case, Big-side Levée can hardly be said to consist in a great measure of fellows who only play Little-sides, or an occasional Second Twenties. Big-side Levée may be a farce, but a "Radical," before he blames it as utterly incapable, should take care that his assertions be well grounded.

A MEMBER OF BIG-SIDE.

P.S. The number 182 is exclusive of those who are absent.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

DEAR SIR,—Why is it there is never, or perhaps I should say seldom, any "Rugby" News in the *Oxford Undergraduates Journal*? Who is responsible for sending up such information? Really Rugby should not be behind hand!—Yours obediently,

METEOR.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—If you will be good enough to bear with me a little, I should like to make a few

remarks about "A Radical's letter." I am not going to deny that of late years at least Big-side Levées have often been mere farces, yet while I admit this, I maintain that the Upper School ought to be as it is, the acting governing body. Before discussing the merits of our present system, let me ask your correspondent what he hopes to gain by his? Among those whom he proposes to admit to his council of the wise are members of House Twenties, House Elevens, and winners of School prizes. Now he must doubtless be aware that by far the larger number of these are already in the Upper School; and of course he cannot suppose that those, whom etiquette now hinders from speaking in a despicable Levée, will ever dare to open their mouths when confronted by the awful dignity of the new assembly. So then it is from the ranks of the Middle School that our friend expects his new orators to arise, from among those who have grown old and bearded in the depths of the Lower Middles, and the few lucky new fellows who have got into their first twenties, or perhaps have won the five-foot two. These, when associated with the few "swells of the first water" are to be the leading spirits of the School.—Ah! but I forgot;—of course they (I mean the older members of the Middle School) will be an immense acquisition, for two reasons; first, because they are well practised in making speeches, as any one may find out who takes the trouble to stand for a few minutes after prayers on the right side of the organ; secondly, because of the immense experience they must have acquired in the art of government, they who have so long retained a firm undisputed sovereignty in their respective Forms. To counterbalance this advantage I will call attention to the fact that it does not appear quite fair that Houses should always be on terms of equality, as would be the case if your correspondent's proposal were carried out, if we except the winners of prizes, &c., who are necessarily a very small number. For every one must confess that at seasons various Houses do sink down into a state of abject degradation, and surely it is not just that when in this condition they should have equal weight with the best. Now our present system admirably provides for this, for we nearly always find that Houses whose members are as a body very low in the School, are low in Football and generally down in the world. Besides, now, while the swells at games have their just preponderance (and who can deny that they have?), every class

is to a certain extent represented and I maintain that there are very, very few members of Big-side who have not a thorough knowledge of and a lively interest in all our games, even if they do not play any themselves. That new rules are often passed without due consideration, owing to fellows being hindered from expressing their opinions, cannot be denied; but I think that this might be got over, if exertions were made by the more influential members of the School to point out the evil effects of this false modesty, and to encourage as much as possible animated debates. Surely your correspondent, though undoubtedly he is a Radical, cannot call himself a Liberal; for is it not a very narrow-minded policy which would subordinate the whole School to one exclusive sect, and, instead of blending all its members into one united whole, would tend still more to widen the wide gap which even now separates the swells from those who are not? and does not he all through his letter display a spirit of intolerance which re-echoes the old Lower School maxim, "Of all contemptible people, those that work are the most." Of course in this age of Reform I should at once be set down as a bigoted Tory, were I to hint that some deference should be paid to the wisdom of predecessors, who selected the Upper School as a body in which a fair average of common sense might be found, well knowing that, though there might be, as there sometimes are, a few illustrious exceptions, the same could not be said of the Middle School. However, I hope and believe that, at least till some far better scheme has been suggested, neither a Sixth nor a Big-side Levée will ever consent to a change which would inflict so severe a blow on the old associations of Rugby School.—I remain, Sir, yours truly,

MACEDONICUS.

P.S. Can you inform me whether it was not passed at a Levée about two years ago that there must always be at least a nominal opposition, so as to give an opportunity to every one to vote against a motion if he choose? I have got a faint recollection of something to this effect, but very possibly it is entirely my own invention.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

April 3.

SIR,—I was very much struck by a letter which appeared in your last impression, which, although evidently impracticable in itself, might lead to good results. I mean the letter of "A Radical," who proposes an

amendment of Big-side Levée. Although this would most probably be impossible (as I believe that Big-side Levée is one of Dr. Temple's institutions) we might follow the example of Harrow, with regard to their Philathletic Club, which is formed only of those who are "swells" at games, and who decide upon the sort of questions which "A Radieal" gives us an instance of. Other questions which have not so much connection with games might be decided by Big-side Levée.—I am, yours truly,

X. Y. Z.

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—I must apologise for intruding on your space again, but there are one or two points in "G's" letter which I think ought not to remain unanswered. The first statement to which I take exception is, his assertion that the Houses seem to match each other uncommonly well. This I admit to be true as far as it goes, but it is certainly not the whole truth. Under the present system it seldom happens that a House has time to play even two House matches, while we often see three or four Houses so nearly equal as to render it difficult to decide between them, unless their relative merits have been determined by the one fair test, a House match, and since this test is withheld it is left to the unaided judgment of the head of the Eleven to say which two Houses shall play the School; and even in cricket, the head of the Eleven's judgment cannot always be infallible.

My previous assertions have been often verified, and notably in the summer of 1865, when Mr. Arnold's House never had the chance of playing either the School House or Mr. Blake's, the two Houses that played the School, and I was certainly not the only one who thought the Arnoldites hardly treated. Next, as regards "G's" argument that the worst House might be called upon to play the best, I would call attention to the fact that not even that consideration has in the least interfered with the success of the Harrow plan; of course it is a drawback, but it is not insuperable. Individually, I would propose that there should be a Challenge Cup, for which all such Houses as chose might compete, and I think most Houses would go in. Thirdly, I do not believe that Form Pimatches are a source of enjoyment to those Below House Elevens, as being bowled out nearly first ball by some eleven fellow, and fielding short leg or long slip does not come up to my idea of enjoy-

ment. If the *Meteor's* excellent suggestion about playing House Matches on one end of New Big-side were acted upon, they would approximate more closely in interest to those football struggles which Rugbeians delight in.

Believe me sincerely yours,

XXII (O.R.).

P.S.—I forgot to say, should my proposal be thought worth accepting, I would gladly subscribe my guinea for such a cup as I have mentioned.

### RUGBY "MERIT."

*To the Editor of the Meteor.*

SIR,—In my letter to you last month on this subject I used the following words:—"To produce nothing but a dozen brilliant luminaries who shall win University prizes, and shall take a high place in the University class lists; this, I am sure, was not the 'merit' which Arnold strove to realize in Rugby, this was not his aim." I was unaware at that time that Arnold had expressed any opinion on the subject, and, but a few days ago I lighted upon the following passage in Stanley's "Life of Arnold":—

"The generation of his scholars to which he looked back with the greatest pleasure was not that which contained most instances of individual talent, but that which had altogether worked steadily and industriously. The University honours which his pupils obtained were very considerable, and at one time unrivalled by any school of England, and he was unfeignedly delighted whenever they occurred; but he never laid any stress upon them, and strongly deprecated any system which would encourage the notion of their being the chief end to be answered by school education. . . . 'What we ought to do is to send up boys who will not be plucked.' A mere plodding boy was above all others encouraged by him. . . . 'If there be one thing on earth which is truly admirable, it is to see God's wisdom blessing an inferiority of natural powers, where they have been honestly, truly, and zealously cultivated.' In speaking of a pupil of this character he once said, 'I would stand to that man *hat in hand*'; and it was his feeling after the departure of such an one that drew from him the most personal, perhaps the only personal praise which he ever bestowed on any boy in his sermons."

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

A. BABINGTON.