

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.