# The Sydneian

No. XVI.

A MAGAZINE EDITED BY MEMBERS OF THE
SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

APRIL, 1879.

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SYDNEY:
PUBLISHED BY J. J. MOORE, GEORGE STREET.

1879.
SCHOOL CALENDAR.

April 4.—Prefects' Supper.
,, 10.—Grammar Handicap Examinations.
       Easter Holidays begin.
,, 21.—Winter Term begins.
       Modern History Voluntary Examinations.
       Sydneian Box closes.
       Sydneian No. XVII. published.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Tiro.—We do not publish contributions sent to us anonymously.

S.W.—The account of the deputation concerning a playground for the
       School, will be given in our next.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following Magazines:—

Melburnian, Vol. III., Nos. 7, 8; Vol. IV., No. 1.
Geelong Grammar School Quarterly, Nos. 7, 8.
Young Victoria, No. 8.
St. Patrick's College Gazette, No. 4
Wesley College Chronicle, Nos. 5, 6.
Mariburan (English), Vol. XIII, Nos. 214, 217
Australian, Vol. I., Nos. 4, 5, 6; Vol. II. No. 1.

Any persons having spare copies of Nos. IV., V., or VI. of the Sydneian
are particularly requested to communicate with the Editors as early as possible.
At the beginning of the present quarter we thought that the old complaint, viz., the small number of voluntary contributors was to be stilled for ever, but we find it again coming to the surface. Surely it would not be too much to suggest that the secretaries of the various clubs should, of their own accord, forward all accounts of matches which are likely to be of interest to our readers. At present, efforts in this direction seem to be confined to straggling reports sent in by scorers. Let secretaries keep reports of matches in order and send them in, in an orderly style. Many boys when asked to write complain of having nothing to write about, and some even suggest that the editors should propose subjects on which boys may write. All we can say is that at this rate literary ability and imagination, as well as esprit de corps must be at a very low status in the school. We hope that it may not be necessary to allude to this unpleasant state of things in the future.

The examinations, and after them, the holidays, are now drawing near. We break up on the 10th and return to school on the 21st. We wish all the boys a pleasant holiday, and a return to school ready for good hard work. The programme of examinations will be found on another page.

Bacon says that “he who delights in solitude is either a wild beast or a god.” We should hesitate under which head to class the “man with the barrow” who works so sedulously in the playground, and has now become one of our institutions. If he is a god we don’t quite see why he shouldn’t do his work a little faster.

SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE STEAM ENGINE.

(W. F. TARPLEE.)

In all ages there has been a strong tendency in man to improve his condition, or “civilise” himself. Man has been gradually civilising himself from the beginning; perhaps not at a uniform rate, but still on the whole there has been a continual progress. Great nations have always had their origin in savage tribes. These have become partially civilised, and attained to a certain degree of excellence and ascendancy among nations; then they passed away and another race followed, and reached a still greater degree of perfection; then these gave way to others better still, and thus the progress of improvement went slowly on.
But there was a limit which nations seemed unable to pass; they reached a comparatively small degree of perfection, but never got beyond that. But when the steam engine was invented and perfected, it opened up vast and new fields for the enterprise and genius of men; and immediately progress in all things was greatly accelerated.

This is shown strikingly in the rapid increase in the prosperity and refinement of England. About a hundred years ago the internal prosperity and cultivation of the great Continental nations was nearly as great as now, and refinement was the rule, while in England refinement was an exception, and there was no very great prosperity. But when the steam engine was invented, the English made it peculiarly their own. Indeed, it may almost be said to be an English invention. The greater part of the earlier experiments in steam, and those who made the most important improvements in the steam engine, belonged to England. And see the effect produced by the extensive use of steam power. In a hundred years England has risen from a second-rate country, whose strength consisted solely in her insular position and powerful navy to be the recognised head of nations in peace as well as in war. Steam has operated in many different ways, direct and indirect, to produce this result. Its great utility lies in its universal application. Wherever any power is required, steam may be used with advantage to supply that power. It is made to propel the Great Eastern with a tonnage of 28,500 tons, or a barge of 10 tons. A steam hammer can be made to strike a mass of iron with a force of twenty tons, and then if a walnut be placed on the anvil, the huge hammer can be made to descend so softly as to just crack the shell. It is the complete control that can be established over steam power that renders it so universally applicable, and makes it become the great agent of civilisation. Even farmers are beginning to drive their ploughs by steam.

Now, the first effect of the general use of steam would be to cheapen everything. Goods which are produced by hand cost a great deal in the workmen's wages, and then the production is limited. But a steam engine can take the place of an immense number of men, costs far less to maintain, and can produce much more in proportion to cost. Thus the production is greatly increased and prices lowered; in this way many articles are brought within the reach of the poor, which would otherwise be luxuries obtainable by the rich alone.

Now, having a large manufacture, we must have some means of transport for the manufactured articles. This is provided for on land by railroads and on water by steamers. By means of these, goods are carried wherever they may be needed. By this means things are brought within the reach of all men which would otherwise be obtainable only in the district where they are produced, and there the prices would be high. By this easy transit things became necessary which were formerly expensive luxuries. Thus it is with coal. At one time coal was used nowhere in England except in the neighbourhood of the few places where it was found, and there only by the rich. It cost a great deal to raise it, so that at the pit's mouth it was a dear luxury, and the cost of transit was so great that it was impossible to buy it at any distance. But when steam was introduced, it not only lessened
the cost of raising coal so that those who lived near could afford to buy it, but it also provided a cheap means of carriage, so that those at a distance could obtain it at a very small additional cost. This reduction in price is an advantage to both consumers and producers. To consumers, because they can afford to purchase, and to producers, because the sale is increased.

Thus the steam engine ensures commercial prosperity to a nation. But that is not sufficient; if a nation is great simply because it is wealthy it cannot expect to last long. To do this it needs refinement. Indeed, great wealth cannot be acquired by a whole nation without a certain degree of refinement; and the same steam engine that produces wealth also produces a higher cultivation of the mind. In the first place we require intelligent men to work our engines, improve old ones, and invent new ones. In this direct manner the steam engine encourages the mental growth of a people. But there are many other ways in which it effects this. Among other things that the use of steam power cheapens, are books, chemicals, and all appliances used in education and the fine arts. Thus, if any even among the poorest have talent, he can obtain the means of showing it and rising to distinction. Now, having read and heard about the world, persons naturally desire to see it, and as travelling is cheap, thanks to steam, people are induced to travel, and bring home with them large experiences and knowledge of human nature. Poets wish to trace in the world the written experiences of those who have preceded them, and then embody their own in writing; painters wish to compare a landscape on canvas with the reality of Nature, and then imitate Nature themselves. Those who have studied history and human nature wish to go through their own and foreign countries to trace out history repeating itself, and to watch the different characters of men under different aspects, and then by their experience to act so as to cause their fellow-men to do right, and ensure success to their country by imitating great men whose actions benefitted their country in their own days.

The steam engine enables all these men to fulfil their desires to the great benefit of themselves and their country, and not their own land only, but the whole earth. For as the steam engine causes men to travel in their own land, have sympathy one for another, and grow prosperous, so the same effects are carried on on a larger scale through the whole world.

So long as the immense power of steam is used aright as an instrument of civilisation and not of destruction, so long will the world remain peaceful, happy, and prosperous. There is no good without some evil connected with it, and certainly bad uses will often be made of the immense power of steam; but on the whole, nothing, except, perhaps, electricity, can be of more use to the world as a civilising agent.

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ESCAPE OF A CONVICT.
(A TRUE STORY.)

It was about eighteen years ago that a coach drew up at the door of a bush hotel in the vicinity of "Scrubby Ranges." The passengers consisted of the driver, a mounted trooper, and a convict whom he had recaptured and
was conveying to Sydney. On arriving at the hotel the trooper entered the bar in company with the driver, leaving the convict in the coach for a minute or two (as he thought.) When they came out the bird had flown, and though manacled, managed to get away by hobbling along. He reached the place where some wire fencers had been at work, and with an adze that had been left lying about, managed to free his feet. In the morning he approached their camp and found only one man up. This was the man in charge, who, after he had heard the miserable fellow’s story, gave him some bread and beef, and advised him to keep out of the way. Soon after the superintendent of the police rode up and questioned him as to whether he had seen the man, but he denied all knowledge as to his whereabouts, and said he had not seen him. While he was speaking another of the chock-and-loggers came up and contradicted this statement. He was at once sent off, and without his breakfast, and as the nearest station was fifteen miles distant, doubtless had some experience of the pangs of hunger. All the trooper could do was to leave two of his mates in plain clothes to watch the place. By constant search they found the tracks of a man leading to and from a waterhole about half a mile off, but no traces of the convict appeared, and after three weeks fruitless watching the troopers left the place.

In about another month the fencers, who had finished their contract, also left, and as they were gathering up their tools and looking round, they saw at the edge of a dense scrub an old box-tree which had fallen in the form of a semicircle. Part of the bark had peeled off, and was hanging down, forming a natural covert. Actuated by mere curiosity, they raised the bark, and found out that this had been the convict’s hiding place, for there lay his handcuffs. The wretched man had grown so thin in the two months, that he had managed to slip off his manacles and disappear, which he was unable to do as long as he carried with him the traces of his convictsip. The superintendent of the troopers, and the man in charge of the fencers, whose name is B——, are still living near Cootamundra, and can vouch for the truth of this tale.

B. R.

GERMAN OFFICIALS.

A stout little German professor,
Whose head was absorbed in his nose;
Had as pretty a wife—heaven bless 'er—
As any one well could suppose.

So this nasal bustling professor,
One day was remarkably kind;
And in accents so sweet did address her,
That she was astonished in mind.
"Will you come my sweet little persuader,
On a trip to old Brussels so grand";
And not waiting an answer he made her,
Consent to the trip that he'd planned.

Then they packed up provisions—as tartlets—
To eat whilst they journey'd along;
For our stout friend, though owing immense debts,
For eating was marvellous strong.

And away they thus started together,
Right straight for the station they went;
They were favoured right well by the weather
Which to please them appeared to be sent.

But before they arrived at the station,
A remarkable fuss had occurred;
For the driver, in awful frustration
Could not catch the "start-away" word.

Loud whistled the stout station master,
This a guard for reply also did;
And another performed one much faster,
For the porter to do as he's bid.

Then "all right" from the ticket collector
Brought a little bit nearer the start;
And when one had ceased to expect her
The train was about to depart.

But alas! as the whistle just sounded,
Appeared our professor and wife;
Straight into the station they bounded
(You must know they'd been running for life).

Out of breath as when playing at cricket,
Or football, one puffs in the strife;
He but gasped, O my ticket! my ticket!
Whilst she cried, "Remember your wife."

With a sigh from the depths of his pocket,
A sigh fit to melt the hard earth;
The word Brussels came out like a rocket
Which departs to the sky with a jerk.

So at last with a ticket he's furnished,
Which will take him to Brussels in peace;
And he looks at his watch which was burnished
As bright as the shields of old Greece.
Meanwhile there had been a great noise made
By two guards who held different views
On the fiddle which Orpheus renowned played,
When paying respects to his muse.

But "Guard will you show us a carriage,"
Put an end to the long useless strife,
Now 'tis one of the evils in marriage,
That a man's always tacked to his wife.

And perhaps our young friend, though he was stout
Might have got to the station before;
If his wife had not happened to find out
She had "left something" locked in a drawer.

Howe'er as it was, they arrived late
To the bother of travellers stern;
Who thus were obliged to long time wait
Till things took a prosperous turn.

And at last with a whistle and loud shriek
On its journey thus started the train;
Which in waiting thus lost, in a whole week
An average day, all in vain.

MORAL.
See e'en the slow officials of this country fair,
Are far excelled in loit'ring by their brethren there,
So let this rule which o'er all earth holds true,
Remain impressed e'en on the minds of you;
"Despite our grumbles at our present state,
There's somewhere worse that still more merits hate."

ORUTCH.

THE ROWING CLUB.

The principal event during the past month has been the receipt of a
challenge from the Church of England Grammar School, Geelong. The
race to take place on the Parramatta River in the month of July, in four-oared string-test gigs.

A meeting of the Club was held to consider the challenge. The Presi-
dent (A. B. Weigall, Esq.) took the chair, all the officers and most of the
members being present. It was pointed out that the acceptance of the
challenge could not fail to be a great benefit to the Club as it would
awaken enthusiasm and induce the elder members of the Club to go in for
systematic practice. The Secretary stated that the Treasurer and he had
waited on Mr. Clarke, the Captain of the Sydney Rowing Club, to ascertain
whether that Club would lend a boat in which to pull the race. Mr. Clarke expressed his willingness to assist the Club by coaching the crew and in every way that lay in his power, but stated that his Club did not possess a boat suited to the powers of any crew the Grammar School would bring forward. This being the case, and the Osprey being too heavy for the purpose, it was decided that subscription lists should be opened to raise money for the purchase of a new racing gig to be built in Melbourne.

It is anticipated that no great difficulty will be incurred in raising the amount required to pay for the boat landed in Sydney, (£45) and it is hoped that all readers of the Sydneyian, whether members of the Rowing Club or not, will not fail to urge its claims to a donation from their friends. It will not be to the honour of the school if a challenge has to be declined because the Sydney Grammar School does not possess a suitable boat to race in, or sufficient energy among its members to raise money to buy one.

Two crews have been told off for daily practice, and the Club Captains are devoting all their energies to get the men into training.

CADET CORPS.

The Corps has had some very good parades during the past quarter, and the drill has been very much improved by the extra two half-hour drills given to the Corps each week by Sergeant Hagney.

This new instructor is a thoroughly good instructor, has a practical knowledge of drill which he can make good use of, keeps good discipline, and is in fact well up in all the duties pertaining to his position. He is a good shot, and will therefore be of service to the Rifle Team, which is getting into excellent form for the next Association Meeting.

The Corps turned out to the number of 75 at the unveiling of Captain Cook’s statue; and again to the number of 80 to form a Guard of Honour at the embarkation of Sir Hercules Robinson. On both occasions the Cadets marched very well, and presented a smart soldierly appearance, and consequently the Corps is beginning to regain its former good name.

The practice shooting during the quarter has been very good. Lance-Corporal Hill has made 45 and 38, Colour-Sergeant Bowman 44, Cadet Moore 37, Q.M.S. Baylis 35 and 34, Corporal Gorrick 35, and all the rest of the team have made scores varying from 25 up to 34 out of 50 possible at 400 and 500 yards. Ten prizes will be given to both companies in future for the best quarterly averages. Two bad marks during the quarter will disqualify a Cadet from taking any prize.

In the match with King’s School the scores were not so good, simply because most of the team were very young shots and were very nervous in their first match. Lance-Corporal Littlejohn made the best score—30 without a miss. They arrived at King’s School by the 12.30 train, and were entertained at dinner by the members of the school. The match was commenced at about 3 and ended at about 5.15—the result showing Grammar School 236, King’s School 228, rather low scores for both sides. The teams then marched back to the school, and after three cheers for the
King's School Cadet Corps and Captain Macarthur, to which that gentleman responded by proposing three for the Grammar School Corps, with Captain Weigall and Lieutenant Anderson, not forgetting their old friend and instructor Sergeant Hagney, adjourned to partake of some refreshment in the shape of some bottled ale, kindly provided by Captain Macarthur. Our team then marched to the station and returned home by the 6.30 train. The best scores were—King's School: Wade 31, Crossin 27, Manchee and Charles 26, Wade II and Dowling 22. Grammar School: Littlejohn and Hill 30, Moore, Heilsham, and Thomson 28, Bowman 27, and Barlee 24.

CRICKET.

SECOND ELEVEN MATCHES.

1.—v. All Saint's College, Bathurst.—This match, the first Second Eleven match that has been played in connection with the school, was won by our representatives in one innings and 70 runs. The scores were—Grammar School, 115; All Saint's College, 15 and 30. The following are the scores in detail:

First Innings.  
T. Smith, c Ayres, b Bird ... 0  
H. Matthews, c Roberts, b Bird ... 1  
J. Butler, b Bird ... 2  
F. Rodda, c Ayres, b Martin ... 1  
J. Brown, b Bird ... 1  
T. Denny, run out ... 1  
R. Atkinson, c Gorrick, b Martin ... 1  
G. Ewen, not out ... 3  
W. Atkinson, c Ayres, b Martin ... 0  
C. Moore, c Ayres, b Martin ... 0  
G. Gennys, b Bird ... 2  
Sundries ... 3  
Total ... 15

Second Innings.  
T. Smith, c Ayres, b Bird ... 1  
H. Matthews, c Roberts, b Martin ... 1  
J. Butler, b Bird ... 0  
F. Rodda, c Ayres, b Martin ... 1  
J. Brown, b Bird ... 0  
T. Denny, run out ... 8  
R. Atkinson, c Gorrick, b Martin ... 1  
G. Ewen, not out ... 1  
W. Atkinson, c Ayres, b Martin ... 0  
C. Moore, c Ayres, b Martin ... 0  
G. Gennys, b Bird ... 1  
Sundries ... 3  
Total ... 10

Bowling Analysis.—1st Innings: Martin, 42 balls, 4 runs, 4 maiden overs, 4 wickets; Bird, 40 balls, 8 runs, 2 maiden overs, 5 wickets. 2nd Innings: Martin, 66 balls, 9 runs, 7 maiden overs, 6 wickets; Bird, 64 balls, 18 runs, 4 maiden overs, 3 wickets.

SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

W. Farquhar, c Butler, b Gennys ... 13  
M. Thomson, c Smith, b Matthews ... 23  
W. Bird, b Gennys ... 1  
J. McCoy, b Gennys ... 19  
C. Ayres, l. b. w., b McEwen ... 8  
A. Gorrick, b Gennys ... 4  
R. M. Fuller, b Gennys ... 37  
W. Roberts, c Brown, b Gennys ... 5  
J. Cleeve, b McEwen ... 2  
G. Fairfax, c Butler, b Gennys ... 0  
G. Martin, not out ... 1  
Sundries ... 2  
Total ... 115
Bowling Analysis.—Gennys, 175 balls, 53 runs, 6 maiden overs, 6 wickets; Matthews, 30 balls, 16 runs, 1 wicket; McEwen, 144 balls, 40 runs, 2 wickets.

2.— v. Calder House, March 12th.—The Grammar School won by 36 runs; the scores were 79 and 43. On our side Street, Roberts, Gorrick, Bird, and Thomson were the highest scorers, with 19, 13, 10, 10, 10 respectively. For Dr. Sly's—Brown 13, Hayes 8, Inverarity 7, and Hannan 6 were the only scores worthy of mention. Shute secured 6 wickets, and Dunsmuir was their most effective bowler; he also secured 6 wickets.

3.— v. Bowyer's, March 22nd.—The Grammar School went first to the wickets, and with the help of Shute's 16, Thompson's 14, Ayre's 11, and Gorrick's 9, secured 81; 5 wickets were taken by Stokes and 5 by Marsh. Bowyer's Eleven scored 34, Stokes (14) alone reaching double figures; Richardson and Bird took 4 wickets each and Shute 1. The second innings was commenced, but was not concluded on account of want of time.

4.— v. Newington College (2nd Eleven) Played at Newington, 26th March.—The Grammars went first to the wickets and soon ran up 104. Roberts made 27, Ayres 20, Farquhar 18, Shute 12, and Gorrick 10. Newington scored 83, Palser was top with 18, Clarke, F. Glasson, and Dawson coming next with 14, 13, and 12 respectively. The Grammar School made 100 in their second innings, Roberts again top score with 24, Farquhar, Cleeve, and Thomson made 20, 16, and 10 respectively. Time prevented the Newington second innings being played out, and when time was called two wickets were down for 38, Hill making 21. The fielding of the Grammar School was not good for the Newington score might have been kept down considerably. Ayres and Shute obtained the best bowling averages, 3 for 11 and 3 for 19. Hill and Clarke in the first, and Ewin in the second innings bowled well for Newington.

Wimbledon Hall C.C. v. Cleveland House C.C.

A Match was played on Friday on the Surry United Cricket Ground, between the above Clubs, which resulted in an easy victory for the former by 10 wickets. The bowling of Martin and Cruickshank for Wimbledon Hall, and Kelly for Cleveland House was good. Mr. Goldie was the only one who made double figures on either side. The scores were—Cleveland House, 34 and 20; Wimbledon Hall, 51 and no wickets for 4. Rygate and Selby made 7 and 8 for Cleveland House.
TO THALIARCHUS.

HORACE, BOOK 1, ODE IX

Soracte's height stands gleaming white,
Knee-deep in drifting snows;
The straining wood bends 'neath its load,
The stream no longer flows.

Up, up, old friend! cold blows the wind,
Heap high with generous hand
The faggots bright, and break to-night
The flask of oldest brand.

To Jove 'tis best to leave the rest,
Who rules the winds and seas;
When he shall will, the oaks are still,
Erst rocking in the breeze.

Fret not, nor 'plain; count each day gain.
Take all the joys that chance;
Each pleasure prove, turn not from love,
And gaily join the dance.

No thought of age need thee engage,
Thy youth is in its flower;
At night repair to meet thy fair,
When comes the trysting hour.

From some dark street her laughter sweet
Tells where she hiding stands;
Then from her fingers the ring that lingers,
Snatch thou with eager hands.

EDINBURGH, JANUARY, 1879.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.—Mr. Weigall occupied the chair. There was a large attendance, nearly forty members being present. J. Herbert (Premier) opened the debate—"Whether England was justified in declaring war against Afghanistan"—in favour of England. The following also spoke on the question:—

For:

C. Ayres
J. McIntyre
R. J. Higgins
D. C. Moore
W. F. Tarplee
J. Butler

Against:

F. B. Wilkinson
J. Mullins
R. Bowman
C. D. H. Rygate

The result of the division was as follows:—For, 21; against, 16. The Ministry therefore carrying the motion.
FRIDAY, MARCH 7.—Mr. Meyrick took the chair. The Hon. Secretary (J. Mullins) announced that he had been unable to provide an entertainment for this evening, and had therefore substituted a debate; for which the Ministry were not responsible. The subject was—“That Representative Government in the Australian Colonies is a failure,” which was opened by J. Mullins, who supported the motion. The following members also took part:—

For:
F. B. Wilkinson
Mr. Meyrick
H. Roberts

Against:
F. R. Barlee
N. Montagu
H. Roberts
J. Herbert
W. F. Tarplee
Mr. Anderson
G. Halliday
G. T. Mullins.

Montagu at the conclusion of his speech moved that—“The debate be adjourned until Friday next.” After a spirited debate Montagu withdrew his motion.

The members divided as follows:—For the motion, 5; against, 14. The motion was therefore lost.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14.—J. Herbert, V.P., in the chair. Mr. Weigall was unable to attend on account of ill-health.

The following programme was carried out with credit.

PART I.
1. Song—“Rustic young damsel” (encored) .......... H. Roberts
2. Recitation—“The collier’s child” .................. J. Herbert
3. Song—“Nancy Lee” ............................... S. Jones and W. Lamrock
4. Recitation—“The world for sale” .................. F. R. Barlee
5. Song—“Little brown jug” .......................... R. Anderson
6. Recitation—“Lodgings for single gentlemen” ...... C. D. H. Rygate
7. Song—“Thy face” ................................... S. Jones

PART II.
1. Song—“Tim Flaherty” (encored) .................... H. Roberts
2. Recitation—“Modern Logic” ........................ C. D. H. Rygate
3. Song—“Rory O’More” (encored) .................... F. Baylis
4. Recitation—“Rienzi to the Romans” ............... J. Herbert
5. Song with chorus—“War song” ..................... S. Jones, F. Baylis, W. Lamrock
6. Reading—from Washington Irving .................. Mr. Anderson
7. Recitation—“An orator’s first speech in Parliament” .......... H. Roberts
8. Recitation—“Battle of Naseby” ..................... R. Anderson
9. “Lecture on Electricity” ........................... J. Butler
10. Song—“Custard Pie” ................................ S. Jones, A. Gorrick, H. Roberts, F. Baylis
11. Recitation—“Waterloo ballad” ..................... F. R. Barlee
12. Song ............................................... F. Baylis

When the programme had been gone through, an impromptu debate concerning the various institutions in connection with the school was commenced and continued with interest by many speakers.
FRIDAY, MARCH 21.—Mr. Meyrick occupied the chair. The Ministry (Herbert's) brought forward the following subject for debate—"That capital punishment is not justifiable."

The debate was argued by

For:
J. Herbert
W. F. Tarplee
C. Ayres
G. T. Mullins

Against:
F. R. Barlee
G. Halliday
N. Montagu
C. D. H. Rygate
E. M. Bowman
F. B. Wilkinson
D. C. Moore
J. Butler
R. Anderson.

The result of the division was—For the motion, 6; against, 21. The Ministry having been defeated therefore resigned. The Chairman then called on Barlee to form a Ministry.


FRIDAY, MARCH 28.—This being the monthly half-holiday no meeting was held.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Sydneian.

Sir,—Would you kindly permit me to point out the advantages that would accrue to the School in the foundation of a Museum and Natural History Society. Most of the large Public Schools in England (on the model of which the Sydney Grammar School is carried on), have a Museum and Society in connection with it. Most boys would feel a great interest, during holiday-time, in collecting specimens and curiosities, which might tend to instruct their fellow-schoolboys, thereby having a double advantage, namely, that of amusing them in their spare time during their holidays, and of instructing others in school-time. We have science classes in our midst, which would greatly assist the foundation of such Societies. At Marlborough College, in England, there is a Natural History Society in a flourishing condition, at the meetings of which the schoolboys present to the Museum, and explain the nature of their findings, thereby rendering the meetings both interesting and instructive. This seems to me to be the only great want in the School, which I hope soon to see remedied. Should the upper boys in the School desire the formation of such Societies, I am sure all the masters will do their best to make them successful.

Hoping that this matter will be taken up,

I remain, yours, &c.,

March 24, 1879.

LANE.
To the Editor of the Sydneian.

Sir,—A MATCH was played last week between the Under-graduates and the so-called 1st Eleven of the School resulting in an easy win for the former.

Three of our 1st Eleven, who shall be nameless, at the last moment, on some frivolous excuse, or rather without excuse whatever, refused to play. Carefully selected out of 400 boys to maintain the honour of our school in the cricket field—privileged to wear the black and gold—three players out of our 1st Eleven are found to "scratch" on the very day of the match.

I have no hesitation in saying that if this had been a whole day's match every member of the team would have been "all there." I have written this short letter because I and others on the selection committee feel that such conduct ought not to be passed over by us without notice. Cricket as well as other things, sometimes entails a certain amount of self-denial; a virtue which some of our team would do well to cultivate.

I am, &c.,
C. H. FRANCIS.

To the Editor of the Sydneian.

Sir,—From the tone of "Aristocrat's" letter published in your issue for February I should imagine that he would prefer rather to see the boys of the different forms fighting than to see them on friendly terms; what the result to the school, would be, were this preference acted on, needs no comment from me.

"Aristocrat" states "I would prefer * * * that every boy should, so far as possible, esteem it a point of honour to associate only with the members of his own form." Did "Aristocrat" consider what the consequence of such a course of action would be? Brothers, while at school, are not to associate; boys forming friendships are to sever these connections simply because they are moved from one form to another and their friends are not; their former friends are to be shown the cold shoulder because they do not happen to possess as much ability or application. Such a course, I consider, would place boys in such a position that they could not form friendships, for of all sacred connections that of friend is next to that of blood, the most sacred; and true friendships, such as many boys form at school, cannot, should not be broken without some very strong reason indeed. Perhaps "Aristocrat" never formed any of these "boy friendships" which, by the way, are generally more pure in their objects and more lasting in their effects than those formed at a riper age, hence does not know what the severance of such ties means.

Would your correspondent tell us that because one man is more successful in business than another, or because on account of ability he rises in the social scale more than his companions, will he tell us that on these accounts the successful man is to give his former and less fortunate or clever associates the cold shoulder? I think not; were a man to do so he would be destitute of many of the qualities requisite to make a man, he would compromise his honour most certainly.
There is one clause in "Aristocrat’s" letter, which, from its inconsistency with the rest of the letter, rather amused me. Here it is, "of course this would not affect injuriously such institutions as the Debating Society." Now, I really cannot see where the “of course” comes in, for, if boys, considered it a “point of honour” not to associate with the boys of other forms they would naturally, and for honour’s sake, avoid all meetings at which they would be likely to come in contact with them, so the Debating Society would either become a form meeting or cease to exist; neither of which results is desirable.

Then looking at our other institutions, the Cricket, Football, and Rowing Clubs; how would they stand were this conservative principle carried out?

Some four years ago, it will be remembered, there was no such thing as an Executive Committee for the whole school; each form had its own Club and Committee, when a challenge was received, the secretary of the Sixth Form Club opened and acted on it; an eleven was chosen to represent the school from the sixth, with perchance one or two from the fifth, and the consequence was that the eleven was not the best eleven: they were defeated, and it was the first eleven of the Grammar School was defeated by so and so.

Now for several years I know that the school was represented in this manner, and we were looked on as only a second rate school team, whereas had the boys been brought more together and been thus enabled to find out who could play, the results would have been different. Late events have proved this, for since the Executive Committee was appointed, and boys, whether higher or lower school, have had a chance of selection, we have lost only one match.

The same results are observable in football.

That there should be a line of demarcation I agree; but I submit that it is at present too strongly marked.

Boys, whether in the higher or lower school, will find their level, and if sixth form boys expect to be treated with respect simply because they are sixth form, they will soon find their mistake. they must conduct themselves so as to command respect. Besides, are no boys in the school to receive the same amount of respect as the sixth? I feel confident that, were it possible to find out the boys who are most respected throughout the school, there would be amongst them boys in the fourth forms at least. And is it not right that these boys should be respected?

I think it is. I look on school as a little state in which boys raise themselves in the estimation of their fellows, as apart from lessons, by force of character and general merit; and the boy who deserves on these grounds, and not on account of his learning will be the one who will receive the reward.

I am glad to see that some of the new perfects are boys such as I have described above, and I am sure they will add rather than detract from the influence of that body.

I am, Sir, yours,

UNICA.
Pity the sorrows of a poor old man,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard.  
My countryman—and yet, I know him not!  
But I am now in mind and in my heart.

'Twas summer, and the sun had mounted high:  
And distance lends enchantment to the view;  
The lowing herds wind slowly o'er the lea.  
I'm dead, Horatio—wretched Queen, adieu!

She sat like patience on a monument,  
Remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow,  
Whose days are dwindled to the shortest span.  
Should I have answered Caius Cassius so?

One truth is clear—whatever is, is right;  
One touch of nature makes the whole world kin,  
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine,  
Accoutred as I was I plunged in.

'Mid rustling leaves and fountains murmuring,  
A youth to fortune and to fame unknown,  
Indulges all a father's heartfelt glee,  
Boasts of a florid vigour not his own.

The sailor sighs as sinks his native shore,  
To give young folks a sober turn of mind.  
How, when a mountain-chief his bugle blew;  
Stop, father, stop! let me get on behind.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By the departure of Sir Hercules Robinson to his new seat of government in New Zealand, the School has lost a good friend, and, what is, perhaps, even more desirable, a judicious critic. As Sir Hercules never praised rashly, and never wantonly censured, his somewhat rare commendations, and his more frequent recommendations, were alike entitled to respect. He was always an advocate for all that conduces to manliness, and what is manliness but virtue? Others can speak with more force of the excellence of his public life; but there are some of those connected with the Grammar School who will long retain a grateful recollection of his thoughtfulness in small matters, and it is in small matters that a man's true character is best discovered. We have at best the satisfaction of knowing that Sir Hercules' kindness to the School was always reciprocated by a very warm feeling on the part of the boys.
This year the School has put out some new "feelers" in the direction of natural science, and we hope that they will prove tenacious. In addition to the Chemistry Class, two new Classes have been established—a Geology Class, which is taught by Mr. Meyrick, and a Botany Class, which is taught by Mr. Stephenson. In this way every boy in the Upper School, on the Classical side, studies some branch of natural science three hours every week; and on the Modern side two hours. When the Modern side has safely surmounted its present probationary stage, more time will be devoted to natural science. Mr. Meyrick has also a voluntary class in botany out of school hours.

We believe that the Head Master is prosecuting his endeavours to obtain the services of a really competent Drawing Master for the Modern side. We shall be glad to see this appointment made, as it will be another step towards giving greater solidity and prestige to the Modern side of the Upper School.

We learn that Mr. J. Jacobs, an old Grammar School boy, is engaged permanently on the literary staff of the Athenaeum, and we had the pleasure recently of reading a very able article in that paper from Mr. Jacob's pen.

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SCHOOL NOTICES.

First Series of Handicap Examinations in English, Latin, and Greek Grammar, will be held on Thursday, April 10. Greek and English (Upper School), 9.30 a.m.; 12.30 p.m. Latin (all the School), 1.15 p.m.; 3.15 p.m. The maximum for each paper to be 100.

In the Upper School—
VI. Form starts at scratch.
V. Form receives 5 marks in Latin, 10 in Greek.
IV. Form receives 10 marks in Latin, 20 in Greek.
Remove receives 15 marks in Latin, 50 in Greek.

In the Modern School—
1. Moderns receive 5 marks in Latin. Start at scratch in English.
2. Moderns receive 15 marks in Latin, 10 marks in English.
Civil Service receive 15 marks in English.

In the Lower School—
III. A starts at scratch.
III. B receives 5 marks.
III. C receives 10 marks.
II. A receives 15 marks.
II. B receives 20 marks.
I. Receives 35 marks.

The Voluntary Modern History Examinations will be held at 1.15 p.m. on Monday, April 21. The subjects are:—Seniors—Gervinus' Commentaries—Julius Caesar—Dowden's Shakespeare Primer—Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Juniors—Macaulay's Essay on Milton.