

H. A. Russell  
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# The Sydneyian.

No. XX.

A MAGAZINE EDITED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

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# The Sydneyian.

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## A GREAT EXHIBITION.

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It has occurred to us that it is really a sad pity that at a great International Jubilee, such as New South Wales proposes to inaugurate in the present month, when the eyes of the assembled nations of the earth are simultaneously directed upon the concrete realisations of the useful and the beautiful, that will then be presented to their admiring gaze—we think it a great pity, we repeat, that this old-established and prominent academy has not come to the fore by preparing for exhibition a few sample cases of the sort of article we are prepared to turn out in response to the public call. What an interesting exhibit it would be, for instance, if half-a-dozen specimens of boys were selected from different portions of the school, neatly arranged in glass cases, ticketed and labelled, to illustrate the process of manufacture by which the raw material (represented by a member of 1A) is transformed into the finished article of Prefect, warranted complete, and requiring nothing but a course of French-polishing at the University? Arrangements might even be made, as at great manufactories, to have the actual process exhibited daily in practical working order; the mode of instruction, nay, even the art of caning, might be illustrated with painful accuracy. This latter branch would undoubtedly prove a great source of attraction to visitors, and might improve the morals of the community by a display of the terrors attendant on evil-doing: on the same principle as fathers with dissolute sons used in the last century to send them to see a man hanged. A fixed time of day might be appointed for this operation, as in Zoological Gardens for the feeding of the lions, and it could not fail to “draw”; but as it would come rather rough on the particular specimen of raw material exhibited to be thus daily “butchered to make a people’s holiday,” it might be contrived that relays of criminals should be sent down each morning from head-quarters. We might also contribute typical specimens of fellows who have especially distinguished themselves, whether in length, scholarship, or appetite. A trophy of fifth form Latin proses could not fail to be an imposing spectacle, suggestive also of pleasing memories. An accurate chart of the play-ground, with measurements, and a calculation by the prize mathematician of the number of square inches which could be



allotted to each boy, if all were in it at the same time, would form a very instructive exhibit. These and other minor statistics, such as the number of ice-creams consumed by Stodger in the summer months, the length (or rather shortness) of the distance weekly traversed by Snail I<sup>us</sup> in his daily loaf down George-street, and the fraction representing the amount of work got over by Snorer in his evening's study, might advantageously be printed in the form of small hand-bills or guide-books, and circulated among our visitors. Nay, we might even go to the extent of exhibiting a specimen or so of our Trustees in their official character, ticketed (in playful allusion to the progressive and liberal character of their reforms) "curious post-tertiary fossils of doubtful location." But we fear that the warmth of our enthusiasm is leading us into uncertain ground; let us draw the curb of our imagination, and request some more practical mind to adopt and work out this great idea.

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### SHOOTING ON THE PARRAMATTA RIVER.

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ON the Saturday following the race, I went up the Parramatta River on a shooting expedition. I joined my two companions at our meeting place, and after we had put our guns, provisions, &c., in the boat, we started. When we had got as far as Ryde, we turned into a large bay opposite Blaxland's Point. We waded around the head of the bay in the mud, and soon spied a crane, who was feeding on the flats, but he saw us, and flew across the bay. We followed him through some of the vilest mud I ever met with. We sank over the ankles at every step, and our boots got full of small stones and hurt our feet, and there was a peculiar foetid smell arising from the mud that must have been very unhealthy. The one who had seen the crane first, sneaked around, and got a shot at him from behind a mangrove tree, and killed him. We returned to our boat and made a fire, and were cooking our dinner, when three cormorants came and sat in the water within shot of us. Two of us blazed at the nearest one, he dived, and the others flew away. He came up and tried to fly, but could not, so we shoved off the boat and chased him. He dived again, and did not re-appear until he got half-way across the river—fully a quarter of a mile. We chased him, pulling our very hardest, and soon closed on him. He took another long dive and came up near the opposite shore. One of us had a shot at him, but he dived too quickly. He kept on diving, stopping under less and less time, each dive, and we kept on firing at him every time he appeared. It was hard work pulling after him, as cormorants can go along very fast under water, and he used occasionally to double, and come up astern of us when we expected him ahead and we would have to turn round. We chased him round Blaxland's Point, and penned him up in a little bay. He was very much exhausted, and could only take short dives, as a great many of the shots had taken effect. At last he came up quite close, and as it was my shot, I fired, and he dived, but came up

again with the top part of his head and beak blown off. We secured him with joy, as we had pulled over two miles after him. While one of us was loading to fire, the others would be pulling, but the instant he had fired he sat down and pulled away, while the next loaded. We returned to our dinner rejoicing, and after dinner we went round into another arm of the same bay. When we rounded the Point, we saw some large white masses up the bay, which one of us took to be boats, another idiotically declared that they were men on white horses, and the third hadn't the very feeblest idea what they were. One of the masses, however, resolved itself into its component parts, and we found that they were big birds sitting in two groups. Then arose a fresh question as to what birds they were. One said, geese; another, swans; and the third, pelicans. When we got near, we found that they were pelicans. And then each heart beat high with hope. We drew our charges of small shot, substituting some swan-drop which one of us luckily had; while we were doing this, we heard a shot fired at a house alongside the bay, and as we thought some one might come after the pelicans we pulled straight to them. There were six of them, big grave-looking birds with their enormous pouches full of dirty water. We pulled on until the boat stuck in the mud, and as we were within thirty yards we fired, to our frantic joy and astonishment two fell, the others flew away, but settled about half-a-mile away. They soon left, but one of them was wounded and stopped. We all jumped into the water to wade to the pelicans, and though the water was scarcely ankle deep, we sank to waist in mud. We wriggled, crawled, and ploughed our way to the birds, but when we got them to the boat we were pretty well tired, as travelling through mud is no easy matter. It was soft mud but luckily not sticky, or we would never have got along. We then loaded our guns again and set off after the wounded pelican. We pulled up pretty near but he flew and went into the mud, just in the same place where the cormorant had gone. We pulled up, and had a very long shot, but we had no more swan-drop, and the small shot did not seem to hurt him much. He flew about 200 yards and we followed him, and had a long flying shot, which did not seem to disturb him, and he went across the river—about half a-mile, and we followed hard. He sat quietly and we had a good chance, but the shot was too small, and he struggled on a bit further; we had another shot, and we gave him fits. He collected his remaining strength and flew across the river again, and we pulled over to him and found him very sick. We each gave him a barrel, and his head sank on his breast, and he died where he sat. We found a small silver bream in his pouch, which looked and smelt as if it had been there several weeks. The pelicans themselves smell very oily, and for strength of perfume, otto of roses, lavender water, eau-de-cologne, &c., are "put into the shade" by essence of pelican. But essence of pelican is not the sort of perfume one likes to have about his clothes, and a person coming along the road by which I carried my bird home, smelt it as strongly as if the pelican was there. I skinned my prize, and my mates did the same to theirs, but it was a very beastly operation.

It may be as well to inform my readers that pelicans are seldom seen up the river, and that these had probably come to see the boat race.



## AUSTRALIA.

## A POEM.

Hail to thee, Australia ! Queen of Southern lands and seas.  
 Hail to thee ! is echoed by every passing breeze.  
 Thy rock-bound shores and pathless woods take up the joyful strain,  
 And hail to thee ! flies swiftly o'er mountain and o'er plain.  
 I also, oh my country ! my feeble voice would raise,  
 To join the swelling chorus which utters forth thy praise,  
 And chant thy name throughout the world as glorious and free,  
 The land of wealth and freedom, and the home of liberty.

The slave may touch thy sacred shore and be a slave no more,  
 The very waves which round thee break, chant "Freedom" as they roar,  
 And from the east and from the west comes back the answering cry.  
 'Tis one of Britian's noblest gifts, we'll preserve it or we'll die.  
 Oh ! 'twas a precious day for thee when thou wert first enrolled  
 Amongst Britannia's children, 'neath St. George's waving fold ;  
 When in her name the noble Cook possession took of thee.  
 And claimed thee as a heritage for truth and liberty.

Methinks I see him reach thy shore after months of doubt ;  
 Methinks I see his gallant crew and hear their joyful shout,  
 As with fond gaze they view the land so beau'eous and fair,  
 Exceeding all their brightest hopes, decked with gifts so rare,  
 That all their dreams of Paradise seem to have centred there.  
 And now they spring with eagerness upon the new-found land,  
 And plant Old England's banner firm in the yielding sand,  
 Then kneeling round with thankfulness, while tears bedim their face,  
 Cook lifted up his voice in prayer to praise God for his *grace*.

Our grateful hearts pay homage to Cook's immortal name,  
 We recognise his service, and preserve his hard-won fame  
 By setting up his statue which for ages yet to come,  
 Shall stand and shed a lustre on each succeeding one.  
 This tribute to his memory was the least that we could do,  
 To show our reverence for a name to which all praise is due.  
 It stands aloft, that glorious name, in our young history,  
 Effulgent in its own sweet light and robed in majesty.

Australia ! tread the noble track which Old Britannia trod,  
 Clothed in Virtue's flowery garb, contented still to plod  
 Along the path, which slow and sure, leads to highest fame,  
 And strive through deeds of honour to gain thyself a name :  
 A name in which Britannia may proudly take delight,  
 And place thee 'mong the brightest of all her jewels bright.  
 When joining all thy strength with hers, bid battle-flags be furled,  
 And with united voice proclaim Peace throughout the world.

T. J. D.

## OUR SCHOOL CONTEMPORARIES.

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IN writing this paper, our chief object is to institute a comparison between *The Sydneian* and other papers of the kind, with the ulterior object of proving to the school that *The Sydneian* is not, after all, so bad as is generally thought in the school. For that it is very generally despised is sufficiently proved by the fact that the average sale among between four and five hundred boys is about one hundred and fifty.

In looking, then, at the school magazines we receive, we find in all reports of cricket and football matches, and other principal events which have taken place in the school. These, indeed, take in all the principal place; but in some they do more than this; the school magazine is merely a reporting machine for the school. This, at any rate, *The Sydneian* has always and rightly avoided; it has aspired to become something more than that, and in this it only follows the example of most of its predecessors, adding some well selected reading matter to the school reports. In this reading matter, too, we think *The Sydneian* bears favourable comparison with other school papers. It is, of course, impossible to show this by taking any one number of *The Sydneian* and comparing with any one number of any of our contemporaries; but we think it will be allowed by all who have opportunity of judging, that what we have asserted is correct. As a very favourable specimen of the literature of the magazine. We may refer to the series of articles on reading lately concluded, we think, then, that *The Sydneian* is on the whole equal to most and superior to some of its fellow-magazines, and this is what we wish to impress upon the school, in order, if possible, to induce the boys to accord it more support. We cannot, of course, tell whether in other schools the editors find the same lack of support and co-operation in the school as we do; we can, indeed, attempt to judge from the number of letters and contributions which we see in other magazines, but this may not be, very probably is not, a sure test. What we complain of is the almost total lack of contributions, which, indeed, it may not be in the power of everyone to send; and also of the lamentable want of that support which everyone certainly can give, merely by taking *The Sydneian* regularly.

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## THE ORIGIN OF SPIRITUALISM.

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For the immediate source of the ridiculous collection of ignorance and superstition, which goes under the title of spiritualism, we have not far to go back; it may be referred without much doubt to the class of reactions which are naturally consequent upon the rapid progress of science during the last thirty or forty years. The rapidity of this advance, as usually in such cases, causes a revolt of the old-fashioned conservatism against new ideas, the opponents of which, in their haste, fly to the opposite extreme. This will account for the prevalence of spiritualistic ideas in some countries (especially perhaps, in America, where the march of civilisation is more marked) during



the present generation; but we shall have to look a long way back in our history to find their real origin.

A traveller, who at the present day, visits the native magicians or mystery-men of the North American Indians or Greenlanders, can see a spiritualistic sèance carried on by them, which is in every detail identical with those now performed, at one guinea per head, by the most accomplished medium. The same condition of darkness is of course required; the magician performs the very same feats of loosing himself when strongly bound, or of producing, whilst in that state, all the phenomena of spirit appearances, spirit-rapping, and so on, and attributes his powers to the same agency of familiar spirits, his object being merely to acquire supernatural influence and honour amongst his countrymen. The only portion with which these savage nations would not be familiar would be the reading and writing, their spirits being naturally ignorant of these arts.

Such exhibitions of unearthly intercourse are amongst untutored people in their native element; for they appeal to the commonest refuge of the ignorant, the explanation of what is marvellous and unknown as caused by powers not of man. They are in accordance with the blind fetish-worship which leads an African negro to fill his hut with collections of odds and ends of rubbish, each fragment of which he believes to be possessed, or to have once been possessed, by a spirit, and therefore capable of malignant influence. Indeed, it is possession by an evil spirit which is supposed, according to the original idea, to take place in exhibitions such as are given by spiritualists; the modern refinement of attributing the supernatural share to the souls of the departed is invented solely for the sake of removing unpleasant impressions: probably the credulous might think it dangerous even to go and see a case of real demoniacal possession.

It may be mentioned that spirit-writing does prevail amongst the Chinese, the method being very similar in idea to the modern planchette; the Chinese alphabet, from its peculiar character, affords remarkable facilities for interpreting the message, when written, in a good many ways. The Chinese employ it as a mode of divination, and it is undoubtedly of very great antiquity. The miracle of floating in the air is practised by the magicians of several nations, but especially of the Hindoos; a Hindoo juggler will perform or cause to be performed (apparently), this feat in the open air and broad daylight, without visible apparatus. Lucian gives an amusing account of a foreign magician, purporting to be from the Hyperboreans, who pretended to perform the same trick amongst the Greeks in the second century. Similar miraculous floatings in the air occur commonly in the traditions of the early Christians, and it seems probable in most of these cases that the story has had its rise in the literal and wooden interpretation of the common metaphorical phrase in which a pious man is said to be spiritually "raised over the heads" of his fellows, when in religious exaltation or ecstasy.

We may properly class spiritualism as a superstition, that is, literally, a standing-over or survival from dark ages of ignorance, recently dragged into prominence as the protest of ignorance against the rationalising advance of knowledge. Two or three centuries ago witchcraft held a very similar

position, though a stronger one; but knowledge has proved too strong for the belief in witchcraft, which is in civilised lands practically extinct for the present. It was, however, a real and earnest belief, dating also from a very remote antiquity, and exercised once great influence; but now "we never mention it, its name is never heard." It may be safely predicted that spiritualism is doomed to share a similar fate at no very distant period.

There would be nothing remarkable in the persistence of a belief in spiritualism, long after all the reasons for it, that to a savage would have seemed cogent, have lost their power. Every ceremony of modern society is crowded with instances of such relics or survivals of former customs. A bow is the last remainder of the original ceremony of complete prostration before a superior, in token of submission; and every intermediate stage may still be met with in different countries. The wedding-cake, considered an essential of marriage, is traced back to the Roman ceremony of "confarreatio" or "eating-together," which was the winding rite of full legal marriage under the Republic. Even the slipper thrown after the bridal party probably points to a reminiscence of the old mode of marriage by forcible capture only, such as still exists amongst Australian aboriginals, and to the attempt by the relations and friends of the bride to resist the attack. In this latter case the trace is so faint that we should probably be at loss to guess its reason, did we not see the same feature perpetuated more markedly in the marriage customs of some half-civilized nations, with whom it is habitual to go through all the forms of attack and defence in the simulation of a forcible abduction, although it is perfectly understood that the whole thing has been arranged by mutual agreement from the very first.

Even the belief in Nemesis, or retribution, according to which great good fortune is certain, unless expiated, to be followed by an equally overwhelming stroke of bad fortune, is due to the same inheritance of savage ideas; yet few people are aware how widely a substratum of this belief is spread through all classes even at the present day. The most educated man commonly attributes to this power an effect which he is hardly conscious of attributing, and would be ashamed to own. Even the really great Julius Cæsar, perhaps especially impressed by his successful life, is said to have resorted to abject pacification of this unknown power.

We might go further, and point to the influence of savage and barbarous ideas in a sphere where some would have thought them most incapable of effect, but we have said enough to illustrate the point, which is, that modern spiritualism is really a product of the continuation of the primeval religious notions of our uncivilised ancestors.

The main support of this superstition against science consists probably in the yet unexplained but real phenomena of mesmerism or animal magnetism. Whilst the true force of these phenomena is unknown, it is no doubt opened to the ignorant and foolish to maintain that they are due to supernatural power (although the word is a misnomer, as any existing power must be *ipso facto* natural); when they are fully explained, it may be hoped that spiritualism will soon be reckoned among the category of forgotten things, and only be unearthed by the students of history who love to record examples of the folly of mankind.



## DEBATING SOCIETY.

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 8TH.—No meeting was held as the debate had been postponed in consequence of the inclemency of the weather.

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 15TH.—Mr. Field took the chair. There was a better attendance than at the last meeting; but I think the boys should show their appreciation of this society by attending in larger numbers and more regularly. In the absence of Herbert, O.S, it was moved by Butler, and seconded by Lamrock—"That thirteen form a quorum." Carried. The debate—"Whether the Railways in this Colony should be under the management of the Government or Private Companies," was opened by the Premier (J. Butler) in favour of the Government; but as no one spoke for private Companies, Butler moved—"That an entertainment be held next Friday, and that this debate be adjourned till Friday, September 5th." This was carried. To ensure a good debate Mr. Field proposed that for the future short speeches or papers should be prepared beforehand by the Premier, and some one who would undertake the leadership of the Opposition. The Chairman then adjourned the meeting after Armstrong had accepted office as leader of the Opposition.

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 15TH.—Songs and Recitations. Mr. Weigall in the chair. The following programme was gone through:—

1. Piano Solo ..... Moore
2. Recitation—from "The Lady of the Lake".... Denny
3. Piano Solo ..... James
4. Recitation—"Bingen on the Rhine" .. Sergt. Hagney
5. Song—"The Cadet Song" ..... James
6. Reading—"Barrel of Pork" ..... Anderson
7. Recitation—"Battle of Linden" .... James
8. Recitation—"Fall of D'Assa" ..... M'Kay
9. Song—"Bunch of Watercress" ..... Sergt. Hagney
10. Recitation—"My Watch" ..... Denny
11. Recitation—"Horatius" ..... Anderson

There was not so good a programme as usual owing to the absence of some of the members who had promised their assistance.

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 22ND.—This being the usual monthly half holiday no meeting was held.

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 5.—Mr. Weigall in the chair. In the absence of the Premier (Butler), J. E. M'Intyre opened the debate—"Whether the Railways in this Colony should be under the management of the Government or Private Companies." In favour of the Government. L. Armstrong, leader of the opposition, replied. The following members also took part in the debate:—For Government—P. Day, W. Tarplee. For Private Companies—R. Tiggins, G. E. Rich, T. M. Thomson. The result of the division was—the Government, 7. For Private Companies, 7. The chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Private Companies. The Ministry were thus defeated, and M'Intyre, on behalf of Butler, resigned. The chairman then called upon Armstrong to form a Ministry. The debate for next Friday is—"Female Franchise," which the Ministry will maintain to be just.

## FOOTBALL.

## KING SCHOOL v. GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE Saturday fixed for our match with the first fifteen of King's School turned out a fine but warm day. The King's School boys were early on the ground, and as they sat together waiting for the game to begin looked a well-knit and supple set of fellows, but of generally smaller make than ours. King's School won the toss and chose the wind. For some minutes after the kick off the ball was very close to the Grammar School goal, but we soon drove it back to the middle of the ground, Bowman "working like a horse," and Grainger distinguishing himself by several energetic spurts. The King's School were meanwhile playing well together, and in the scrimmages showed a compact and steady front. The superior weight of our team however forced the play, and at the end of the first half hour the ball was well down. For a quarter of an hour we were within fifteen yards of King's School goal, when a fine run by one of theirs took the ball back to our end. Here our boys appeared to lose their heads, running the ball continually in front of goal. A succession of fierce scrimmages followed. The King's School made a sudden rush, and forcing the ball behind our line, obtained a touch down. They attempted a place, and failed in their attempt; half time being called at five minutes past 4.

We recommenced play with the wind on our side, and with every disposition to expect success. Baylis quickly caught the ball, and by a fast and plucky run got within three yards of the King's School base line, when he was collared by Brown. The ball being held a scrimmage took place. A minute after this Grainger picked it up, ran across the ground, and being collared passed it neatly to Baylis, who was following up well, and who carried it in, and obtained a touch down. Thomson then made a good but unsuccessful try at an impossible goal, thus leaving the game evenly balanced between the rival teams.

Some twenty minutes more now remained. Brown kicked off the ball. Grainger and Thomson, by two brisk runs, brought it back close to our opponent's line. It was kicked back into touch, not far from our goal. The King's School boys lined out well, while ours crowded together near the touch line for scrimmage. Being a King's School ball it was thrown well out to the end of the line, and was caught quickly, and by a smart drop kick sent flying over our cross bar.

The game was now lost for us.

We reproached ourselves deeply enough for not lining out, and for the rest of the game played fiercely. There was not however time to effect any real result. Sam Jones and Baylis took the ball away again across the ground and we had just forced the ball behind their goal when time was called.

Throughout the game the superior training of the King's boys was very evident. Four mornings in the week they go out before breakfast for a mile spin, and this, with a little care in the matter of diet, enables them to work hard all through a game without feeling distressed. In a day school such as



ours it is naturally difficult to carry out any systematic training ; but surely something might be done in this direction by the boys themselves.

One point more remains to be noticed, and that is the sparse attendance of Grammar School boys at our First fifteen matches. Our headmaster was there, and the editor of the *Sydneyan*, and Messrs. Francis and Skinner, and a large number of King's School boys, but ours were too lazy to attend. The school is not in any way wanting in *esprit de corps*, but the younger boys seem hardly to recognize the fact that their attendance acts as an incentive to those who are playing to play with all their might. If they were to come up to the ground in number, instead of letting the fifteen play by themselves, this would put new life into our matches, and double the pleasures of our victories.

### ONE OF OURS.

#### 1ST FIFTEEN *v.* KING'S SCHOOL.

This match was played at Parramatta on Wednesday, June 11. It was won by King's School by 1 goal to a trial. Manchee kicked a drop over the goal.

#### 1ST FIFTEEN *v.* BATHURST.

This match was played on Saturday, June 14, at Bathurst. It was won by the Grammarians by 2 goals to 1, G. Higgins and Baylis getting the touch downs for the Grammarians, J. Yeomans getting the touch for the Bathurst team. Rygate also got a touch which was disputed.

#### 1ST FIFTEEN *v.* 1ST GLENHEADS.

This match was played at Double Bay reserve on Saturday, July 26. It was won by the Grammarians by two trials to nil, both touches being got by Baylis.

#### 1ST FIFTEEN *v.* UNIVERSITY.

This match was played on Moore Park on Thursday, July 31, and resulted in a draw. On account of the wet weather the University did not bring a good team into the field, and played with only 13 men. Connell got a touch down for the University, and E. M. Bowman scored a goal for them. Thomson got a touch down for the Grammarians, and also kicked a goal. After this no advantage was gained.

#### 1ST FIFTEEN *v.* REDFERN.

This match was played on Moore Park on Saturday, August 2nd, and resulted in a draw in the Grammar's favour. Thomson managed to get it over the goal line once, when a maul took place with Mullarky, but Thomson being sick, failed to get the ball from his opponent. The game was brought to a close before time on this account; Amess also got his arm broken.

#### 1ST FIFTEEN *v.* BALMAIN CARLTONS.

This match was played on Moore Park on Saturday, August 9th, and resulted in a win for the School by a goal and a trial to one trial. Baylis made a very smart drop back over the goal.

1ST FIFTEEN *v.* KING'S SCHOOL.

This match was played on Moore Park on Saturday, August 16, and resulted in a win for the King's School by one goal and a trial to a trial, Bowden getting the touch down for King's School and Baylis for the Grammar. Manchee made a splendid drop kick, and scored the goal for King's School. This was the most pleasant match we have played this season. Ewing got hurt near the beginning of this match and was not again able to join in.

1ST FIFTEEN *v.* UNIVERSITY.

This match was played on Moore Park on Thursday, August 21st, and won by the Grammars by one trial. The School got a goal and a touch down to a goal.

1ST FIFTEEN *v.* NEWINGTON COLLEGE.

This match was played at Newington on Saturday, August 23rd. It was won by the Newington by a touch.

1ST FIFTEEN *v.* KING'S SCHOOL.

This match was played at Parramatta on Wednesday, August 27th, and resulted in a draw in the King's School's favour.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL *v.* KING'S SCHOOL.

The 2nd Fifteens of the above Clubs met at Parramatta on Saturday, August 16th, when the Grammar School were victorious by 3 goals and 13 touches-down to nil. Touches-down were obtained by Wilton (5), Hawkins (3), Hill (2), Thomas (2), Cleeve II. (1), Reddall (1), Tibbits (1), Shute (1), Selby (1), disputed. The goals were kicked by Shute, Dezamaulds, and Cleeve I. respectively. In addition to the above the King's School were forced to touch behind their own goal 9 times to the Grammar's twice. Shute and Friend acted as Captains.

2ND GRAMMARS *v.* 2ND GLENHEADS.

A match was played at Parramatta on June 11th, resulting in a win for the Grammars by 4 touches-down to nil. The touches were obtained by Bird (1), Gerard I. (2), Mackay (1). No goals were kicked although the touches-down were in a good position.

2ND GRAMMARS *v.* 2ND GLENHEADS.

A match was played between the above fifteens on Moore Park, on July 26th, resulting in a win for the Grammars by 2 goals and 3 touches-down to nothing. The touches-down were obtained by Martin (3) and Hill (1), from one of which Shute kicked a goal. The other goal was from a drop-kick by Hawkins.

WIMBLEDON HALL *v.* KING'S SCHOOL.

A Friendly football match took place at Parramatta between the Wimbledon Hall and 2nd Fifteen of King's School. Play began at half-past 3 o'clock; the Wimbledon Hall Fifteen playing without their best forwards, McPhillamy and Kenna 1. The match resulted in a victory for Wimbledon Hall by one goal. Martin's play was very good, also Butler's place-kicking.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of "The Sydneyian."*

SIR,—I perceive very little progress made as yet towards a more general participation and interest of the whole school in the games of cricket and football. The only athletic game properly patronised is the Races, the attendance and competition at which leaves little to be desired. I have endeavoured to inquire as far as possible into this disproportionate division of popularity, with the following result. I am of opinion that this effect is wholly and entirely due to the fact that in the races every fellow has a definite cause to uphold, to wit, his own individual glory; and as under no circumstances worth considering can races call out any deeper interest than this, the consequence is that the competition in our school is quite up to the mark of that in others. But in cricket, and still more in football, the case is wholly different; it is indeed still possible to win individual distinctions (though hardly of so marked a character), but if every player goes on the independent ticket in this way the game is a dead failure. Now, I am of opinion, that this is precisely what happens; every one goes in on the express hope of distinguishing himself alone, and casting scorn upon his rivals, and those who do not expect to shine among the greatest, simply hold aloof rather than be outshone. It must be observed that I am not speaking of out-matches against other schools, but of ordinary games such as there are sometimes, and ought to be oftener, amongst ourselves. I do not find fault so much with the fellows themselves for thus playing for individual honour: I blame rather the system, or want of system, which has provided them with nothing else to play for. I am perfectly convinced that, without some plan of organization that shall provide a cause to sustain and a party to fight for, it is hopeless to attempt to excite universal interest, except of a factitious and temporary kind which is valueless. Only one motive is powerful enough to overcome the difficulties and hindrances which undoubtedly do stand in our way; that motive is party spirit, and party spirit requires time for its growth, which, therefore, involves a permanent and definite idea or abstraction, round which attachments may grow up, and traditions in time develope themselves. Boarding schools possess a rallying system of this kind by the nature of their circumstances; we, who do not, must perforce manufacture one for ourselves by art.

Rather a wide field for imagination is here presented, as the actual institutions of the school do not present any satisfactory basis for the foundation of such a system. The only natural divisions which we possess are those of the forms, which are unsatisfactory for the purpose, as they are naturally more or less coincident with age and growth, and therefore divide the school into sections of very unequal physical value, between which contests must commonly be one-sided and uninteresting. I propose the following rough sketch of a plan which would, I think, in time obviate the difficulty.

The lower portion of the school I would not include; they might be arranged for separately, as their youth would prevent their associating

practically with the bigger fellows. The upper 200 might be included in the plan, which I suppose would take in III B, or thereabouts. Let these be divided by lot, fairly and impartially, on chance alone, into six divisions, A to F; each of these would contain about 34 boys. At the beginning of each term the new boys promoted into these forms might be similarly drawn by lot to fill in the vacancies, so that the numbers of the six divisions remain always equal. Boys once placed in one of these divisions remain perpetually in it for athletic purposes, whilst at the school. On the mathematical theory of probability, these divisions would on an average be well matched, and good contests would be certain to follow. Each division would be sufficiently large at this estimate to provide two elevens or fifteens, so that each could get up practice matches within itself, and could pick a fairly good first team to play against its rivals. If, then, these matches were made annual, under the direction of the Sports Committee, the divisions being drawn by lot to compete in pairs, and the winners to play one another, a challenge cup being held by the victors for the year, I think a sufficient stimulus might be imparted to rival more or less successfully the effects due to similar but natural institutions in other schools; to which indeed the scheme would be in reality more nearly analogous than might appear from its outwardly artificial character.

I hope that the present sports committee, or perhaps some future one, may take up this or some similar project in earnest, if they really hope to arouse a more vigorous vitality in the school.

I am, Sir, &c.,

PARTISAN.

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*To the Editor of "The Sydneian."*

Grammar School, September 1st, 1879.

SIR—There are several things in the school which want looking after, and which could, with very little trouble and expense, be remedied. The object of this letter is to call attention to them and get them put right.

The first thing that might be noticed is the Drinking Accommodation, or rather, where it ought to be. There are about 400 boys at the school and there were about six mugs to drink out of; that is an average of about 70 boys to each mug. Surely it would not cost too much to buy a dozen or so more mugs and fasten a couple to each tap, so that every one would have a chance to get a drink, without having to fight for it like they had last summer.

Then the towel. When there is one (which is rather an exception than a rule) it is so dirty that it is of no use. A piece of soap, occasionally, might help to keep both the towel and the boys hands clean. Suppose some one tries the experiment.

Last, but not least, comes the out-offices. The odour of them now is scarcely bearable; what it will be when the summer comes, if nothing is done to improve them, no one can tell. A free use of water and chloride of lime could not fail to make a change for the better. I now conclude, and, without the usual apology for taking up so much of your valuable time,

I sign myself,

PAUL PRY.



*To the Editor of "The Sydneian"*

SIR—I have often wondered that in so large a school as the Sydney Grammar School no such thing as that healthy game Hare and Hounds has ever been started. Perhaps some will say we have plenty amusements; but there are not many in which great and small could take such an equal part. There is a time when football is out and cricket has not quite come in when such an amusement as this might be enjoyed by the whole school. Then, perhaps, the next difficulty that would be thought hard is that of a not suitable ground where this might be carried on to advantage. I think, if I do not mistake, that at the back of Moore Park there might be a suitable place for such a game.

Hoping that some of the "big boys" would take this in hand (but let the "little boys" share in it equally) such a game might be started and set the Grammar School up a bit. Apologizing for the valuable space I have taken up, and hoping you will give this letter publication,

I remain, &c.,

LEPUS.

Grammar School, August 27th, 1879.

*To the Editor of "The Sydneian."*

SIR—I think it would be a good plan for you to establish "Queries and Answers" in your publication; I think it would bring the boys of the Sydney Grammar School more out, and teach them some useful knowledge. I see that practice has been carried on largely by the leading papers of the day, and I don't see why *The Sydneian* should not likewise patronize this plan. Hoping you will look to this,

I remain, &c.,

S.

*To the Editor of "The Sydneian,"*

SIR—I beg leave to call attention to the neglect shown to the Institution by members of the Debating Society. Though there are 46 members only 19 came to the last debate, and even at the entertainment only 27 were present. This shows a great falling off since last quarter when the average was about 30. There is no doubt that many of the most valuable members left last quarter, and that those who remain are accordingly discouraged, but for that very reason they ought to exert themselves as much as possible to forward the interests of the Club, or at least attend the debates regularly. It is to be hoped that the system proposed by Mr. Field, i.e., that speeches should be prepared beforehand by the Ministry and Opposition, will work better than the former one. Hoping that more interest in this Society will be shown,

I remain, yours,

L. A.

## REMARKABLE SYSTEM OF DISCIPLINE.

THE Principal of a neighbouring Sydney school, which shall be nameless, in his "Annual Address," strongly recommends "the putting down of all sly tricks with pea-shooters, ink-bottles, or other missiles," and naively adds that the master "may not find this easy at first, but he must keep on trying."

This would appear to denote repressive measures of a very unusual character, and it is with much self-complacency that we are enabled to reflect that the various forms of our own school are so far well-behaved that neither the head master, nor any other member of the magisterial body, has on any one occasion been driven to employ either pea-shooters or ink-bottles for the maintenance of order. Indeed, if matters were brought to this pass, it would be more dignified, and more effective also, to call out the military at once, and clear the class-room with as little bloodshed as might be absolutely required.

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## FOOTBALL EXTRAORDINARY.

WE take the following from a Windsor paper :—"There was a football match on Saturday last between fifteen of the Windsor Grammar School, and a like number of schoolboys from Sydney. Our boys suffered defeat, by three goals and two touchdowns to nothing. There was great sport around, that is, to the onlookers—they were treated to an exhibition of running, wrestling, boxing, and kicking. The Windsor lads received some very hard treatment, one received a kick on the shin, which cut nearly to the bone, another was favoured with a smash amongst the ivories, and one will not be able to sit down for a short time. The Sydney players did not get off Scott free—one had his senses belted out, one got his nasal organ knocked all over his face, and another had his ear-hole shifted. 'Tis the first match our boys have played, and a few intimate that, as far as they are concerned, it will be the last. They don't understand the new game of football—they say that if they receive a challenge to play a friendly game of football, they want to play that game; but if they are challenged to have a free fight, they will know how to prepare themselves."

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. L. STEPHENSON, B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, has been appointed Head Master of the Grammar School, Toowoomba, Queensland. For almost seven years Mr. Stephenson has been a Master at the School, and has endeared himself to all connected with it by the singular combination of manliness and gentleness that distinguished his character. The vacancy, caused by Mr. Stephenson's promotion, has been filled by the temporary appointment of Mr. A. K. Farrar. Mr. Farrar was educated at Haileybury, where he was in the Football Twenty, and at King's College, London, where he was the best man of his year in 1878.

WE are glad to hear that Mr. C. R. Buckland will join Mr. Goldie in the Boarding House, which has been so successful under the management of Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Goldie. Mr. Buckland was for some years an Assistant Master at Wellington College, New Zealand. We feel sure that Mr. Buckland will be as popular in the Boarding House as he certainly was with the College boys at Wellington.

By the last mail, Mr. W. F. Quaile, B.A., University of Sydney, an old Grammar School boy, left the colony to prosecute his medical studies at the University of Glasgow. He has promised to send us an account of his first impressions of his new sphere of work.



## SCHOOL NOTICES.

THE Second Series of Handicap Examinations will be held on Friday, September 26.—English and Greek, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.; Latin, 1.15 to 3.15 p.m.—The usual allowance will be given to the Junior Forms.

THE School will break up for the Michaelmas Holidays at 3.15 p.m. on Friday, September 26, and meet again on Monday, October 6. It will be considered a point of honour for everybody in the school to help in carrying out these regulations with regard to attendance.

HIS HONOR Mr. Justice Windeyer has offered an Annual Prize of the value of £3 3s., for an English Essay, open to all the school. The subject chosen for this year is

“Quo valeat nummus, quem prebeat usum.”

—the value and use of money.—The essays to be given up at 9.15 a.m. on Monday, December 1, and to be identified by a motto. The writer's name to be forwarded with the essay in a sealed envelope with the motto written outside the envelope.

THE Librarian of the VIth Form begs to acknowledge the following book:—“Half-Hours with the best Authors.” From G. T. Mullins.

THE Members of the old Sixth are requested to send in their books as soon as possible.

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FRENCH EXAMINATIONS.—JUNE, 1879.

THE following obtained a first class:—

## UPPER SCHOOL.

Leverrier  
Armstrong  
King, 4  
Crocker  
Halliday  
Jones, 1  
Cowper, 1  
Rofe  
Thomson 2  
Henriques  
Gorrick

## LOWER SCHOOL.

Elliott  
Woolcott  
Garrañ  
Savage  
Frazer  
Beehag  
Saddington

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

CLIFTONIAN.  
MARLBURIAN (2)  
CINQUE PORT.  
ULULA (Manchester Grammar School Magazine)  
AUSTRALIAN  
WESLEY COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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Answer to Enigma in our last—“Courtship.”