

Misericordias Domini



in aeternum cantabo.

THE ABINGDONIAN

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EDITORIAL.

OUR thanks are due to several old boys particularly to W. H. Richardson and A. B. Morland for the interest, they take in the School Paper and for the contributions they have sent us. From any old boy we should be pleased to hear.

In the Class lists we noticed the names of two old Abingdonians J. W. Veysey and C. H. Payne, the former took a third in Classical Moderations, and the latter passed in the Honour School of Theology.

We should like to see a more intelligent and intelligible system pursued in the arrangements of cricket matches. We have our match card before us now, but we no longer trust to its guidance, for we came up one day in blind reliance on its trustworthiness, expecting to see a match, and found our team starting for a journey into the country. Other schools have their match cards as well as us; but to think of exchanging them or verifying the dates is an idea repugnant to the happy-go-lucky spirit which prevails not only here, but we should imagine in the other schools too.

The other day St. John's School arrived on our ground but found no one to meet them. On comparison of cards an error was discovered in the dates of both home and return matches. The secretaries may comfort themselves by the old proverbs that a man who never makes a mistake, never makes anything, but this particular mistake could have been prevented by a post card.

We must congratulate the Captain of the XI on having a better pitch this year than there has been for some time past. But considering the lateness of the year when the turf was laid down we think that fortune has in this instance been on our side, and happy-go-lucky methods have been crowned with success.

When members of our Eleven persist in the pernicious practice of bathing on the morning of a match, we begin to doubt that cleanliness stands next to godliness, despite the time-honoured adage. Without doubt, bathing makes one slack and unequal for an afternoon's hard work in the cricket field. Perhaps the captain might exercise a little wholesome authority with those members who are conceited enough to think they have such a super-abundance of energy and strength.

The thanks of the school in general are due to those who have kindly contributed to the Fund for the new Mowing Machine purchased for the club, also to E. Morland, Esq., for kindly lending his roller, which has greatly aided us in preparing the ground.

We are glad to see that the members of the school four have at last awoken to the fact that the annual race is impending. They are showing signs of improvement under the charge of Mr. Hodgson, and we wish them success in the race. The practice of "tubbing" between dinner and afternoon school is, we think, a novel one and has much to recommend it.

We are sorry to see the papers in the Reading Room so badly treated;

also the cases for the Illustrated Papers, which we believe were only bought twelve months ago: but yet when we see how some boys use them for projectiles it is wonderful they have remained intact so long. We should like to remind every one that the place for them is not on the floor: more care must be taken, as our income will not allow us to provide new cases every year, in fact we are in debt, overrunning our account last term to the extent of 17s. 8d. Any suggestions concerning the management of the Reading Room will be gladly received.

We understand that the Clock Tower Committee have sent for estimates to Messrs. Joyce, Whitchurch, and if they receive a favourable answer the work will be proceeded with at once, though as yet not more than £50 have been subscribed.

EXPERIENCES ON THE CONTINENT. (*Continued*). "THERE."

FOR the first two or three days after our arrival in Freiburg, we devoted ourselves to the genial and exhilarating pursuit of hunting for a suitable Pension (Boarding House.) We could not stay at the Hotel Engel, it was too expensive, and hotels are not, on the whole, good places for reading, and then it had its disadvantages—at least, to our minds, ignorant as yet of the subtleties of German phraseology, it had.—How, we asked ourselves, can we make a prolonged stay in a place where dinner is advertised for 12½ hours? A few days of that, we thought, would be quite

enough, a week would probably kill us. Then again one morning we saw a notice to the effect that "the Drawing Room 'finds itself' on the ground floor." We had a dim recollection of having been in the said Drawing Room the previous day, but it was on the third floor. What if our own rooms (which were at the top) should take it into their heads to perform similar manoeuvres? We shuddered at the thought, and went out immediately to explore. After meeting with several disappointments, we at last came upon what seemed to be an eligible residence at a little hamlet called Güntersthal, about a mile and a half outside the town. Here, we said, we shall have beautiful peace and calm: surrounded by the glories of nature in her most fetching simplicity, we will spend the day in hallowed intercourse with the muses, and the night in chaste thoughts of the sublime. We will leave far behind the sinful world with its sordid cares. In yonder mansion we will take up our abode, where everything is clean and fair. With such thoughts we entered the house, but when we were inside it, the reality did not seem quite to come up to our ideal. There was a prevailing odour of garlic, and the place was not so clean as we had anticipated. However we made the usual enquiries and were told by the "Frau" that she could accommodate us all. She ushered us into a long and gloomy loft, where she said she could put eight beds for us. We thought she was in (German) fun, but she said she meant it. We told her that as a chamber of horrors the place would bring in a very fair rent. We said that we could not conscientiously turn out the rats, moths, and other

insects, who had lived there for generations, for the sake of own selfish repose: we suggested that after a few years' cleaning the place might perhaps be fit to keep pigs in, and after a century or two might possibly be made into an habitation for man; then perhaps we would come and take it, but for the present—we thought it best to leave at that point, as one of our fellows had evidently forgotten all his previous beautiful thoughts, and—well, if that woman understood English in all idioms I am sincerely sorry for her.

This event rather damped our ardour, and a heavy thunderstorm which broke over us on our way back to the town completed the process. We got back and changed, and then a very odd thing happened. I have never been able to account for it since. We were perfect strangers and did not know the language of the natives, so we can't have asked our way; besides we meant to go to the Post Office, but somehow, within ten minutes we found ourselves inside the most celebrated "Bier Garten" in the town. How we got there is still a mystery. There was a man at the Pension where we afterwards put up (who went by the name of the Major), who told us that he had experienced the same sort of thing; in fact he was still experiencing it some six or seven times a day. He always gave out when he started that he was going round to the Post Office. Why he should have been always going to the Post Office, we could never understand; his letters came to the house; but he always said so, and when he came back it was always very evident that he had been

somewhere else as well.

Finding ourselves in so unusual a place we were for retiring, but our attention was attracted by an assembly of some 200 students who were evidently indulging in a "Kneipe," called in English a Dru—that is, Symposium. We felt it our duty, being students ourselves, to stop and look on. We felt too, that we should enter into the spirit of the thing better if we did as they did. For this reason only, we ordered a modest pint each. The scene was an impressive one, though perhaps rather dull. The students (the Germans, I mean, not ourselves) had evidently determined to enjoy their beer. They were completely and entirely, if I may use the expression, wrapped up in beer. They drank their beer (not as an Englishman who quaffs half a pint with elegance; they gave one awful gulp, and a pint was gone), they gazed lovingly at it; they thought about it, but they spoke not a word, save now and again to propose a toast with the solemn word "Prosit," On these occasions they swallowed about half a gallon at a gulp. Once, and only once, one of them, apparently, tried to make a joke, and the rest attempted to laugh. I believe one of them actually did laugh; but it was too much for him. Poor fellow, his death was in the papers next day. They said it was apoplexy.

Next day we found a home that suited us in every respect. There were about 40 people there (including ourselves), some male, some female, several of them Americans, all of them charming. As the following eight weeks were

occupied chiefly with study, there is not much more to record. One night, however, we gave a dance. To add to the fun of the thing we invited two German Infantry Officers, whose acquaintance we had just made. Now, if there is one class of men on the face of the earth to whom the word 'idiot' particularly applies, that class consists of the young officers of a German Infantry Regiment—and these two were no exception. One peculiarity of German Officers is that they always wear their uniform and sword: they play tennis in them, they dance in them, and I verily believe they go to bed in them. These two warriors turned up of course in uniform and sword: and one of them wishing to resemble the Engländer, had bought a single eye-glass, and, all the time that he was not feeling for his whiskers, was trying hard to fix it in his eye and look bold. We pitied him: he evidently suffered tortures. The other one danced, and played havoc with his sword. He managed at first only to trip himself up with it, which did not much matter; but before long he sent his partner flying, and then he seemed to lose his head. That miserable sword got into everybody's way; bits of dresses and coat-tails were literally flying in the air. At last we could stand it no longer. We explained to him calmly that it was not a battle, and that there were no French present. We got the orchestra to sound the retreat, in German, but it was of no use. At last one of us enticed him away with promises of beer, and then there was peace.

We had one or two little adventures with the German police. The Bobby

in the Fatherland is a very big man, both in person and station. His principal duty seemed to us to be to fine innocent English residents sums of five or ten marks. For this purpose a corpulent German Policeman will pursue on foot any bicycle that does not carry its registered number, for miles. It seemed to us, however, that the bicycle, or rather its rider, generally scored—such is the cruelty of fate. The German Policeman is also very great at a railway station. If in sheer absence of mind, forgetting the bye-laws, you stroll peaceably across the rails, the G.P. appears, goodness only knows where from, and fines you five marks. If you cheer departing friends, or bewail aloud when the cruel train bears away one that is dear and fair, the G.P. raises his charge to ten marks. But their system of collecting the fines in some way mitigates the evil. It is thus. The bloated official presents you with a paper, stating politely that you are fined so much: he then departs, casually remarking that he will call again in a fortnight for the money. This method suited us exactly. One of our fellows discovered it one day, when he was fined for fishing without a license. He said he was not going to pay five marks for the privilege of catching blooming German Trout; the thing was absurd. We agreed that the idea of his catching Trout at all was highly absurd; but he would go. He fished that stream all day, he fell into it twice, but he did not catch anything; he was caught himself by one of the Country Police and fined ten marks. Thus we learnt their system, and I may say without boasting that we took full advantage of it.

Thirteen days before our departure we began to trouble the police. Notices of fines simply rained in upon us. The force made extensive preparations for a "Fest" in anticipation of the sums they expected us to pay—which must have been considerable. Of course we meant to pay them; it was very unfortunate for the Force that we did not; but by the merest chance, ere the fatal fourteenth day arrived, we had said good-bye to the good old town and had left the Preservers of the Peace to the undisturbed contemplation of their own importance and superiority, a pursuit in which they took far greater pleasure than in the possession of untold gold.

OLIM ALUMNI.

I.

IN a magazine devoted to the interests of Abingdon School, it will I think be agreed to by all, that hardly anything could more fittingly occupy a share in its pages than some records of those distinguished men, who during a period of 300 years or more, received their education within its walls and lived to shed a lustre upon its annals.

Most Abendonians, both past and present, will, I believe, concur with me in thinking that we know at present too little of our predecessors in the school; we soon lose sight, even of our contemporaries, and if any thing can be done by means of this magazine, to repair the loss we have suffered and still suffer from the absence of a properly kept School Register, by recalling and placing on record the names and careers of

old boys, and especially of those who have risen to positions of greater or less eminence, it will be both interesting and extremely useful, and perhaps furnish a new incentive to the ambition of those boys who constitute the Abingdon School of to-day.

I propose, therefore, under the heading given above, to attempt something of this sort. I am not going to take names in any kind of order, but as may be most convenient generally, and I begin on this plan, with the name of CLEMENT BARKESDALL OR BARKSDALE, who was born at Winchcombe, (Glos.,) 23rd Nov. 1609, being the son of John Barksdall of that place, from which the family seem afterwards to have removed to Abingdon, where, as Antony à Wood says, he was "educated in grammar learning in the Free School," and this must have been either during the head-mastership of Mr. Huish, who was appointed in 1616 or that of Dr. Jennings, his successor. At the age of 17, Barksdall left Abingdon for Oxford, and matriculated at Merton College, 3rd Feb., 1625-6, as a "Servitor," but shortly after migrated to Gloucester Hall, (now known as Worcester College), from which he took his B.A., 27th Oct., 1629, and M.A., 5th June, 1632. Entering into holy orders, he became in 1637 chaplain of Lincoln College and of All Hallows or All Saints church, Oxford, the living of which is still in the gift of that College; but relinquishing this, he went in the same year to Hereford as master of the Free School in that city, a foundation claiming to date from the latter part of the 14th century, and while there, held also the offices of vicar choral of the Cathed-

ral church and rector St. Nicholas', to which he was presented in 1641. On the breaking out of the Civil War, Hereford was garrisoned for the King, and Barksdall, as a devoted loyalist, actively exerted himself in its defence, but on the ultimate surrender of the place in 1646, he was rescued from a perilous position by George, 6th Baron Chandos of Sudeley, and placed at Sudeley Castle as domestic chaplain and minister of the chapel attached to it then, as now, the parish church. Here he remained for about ten years, and the published local annals show him to have been a diligent and faithful pastor. In order to the better organization of his parish in matters relating to the Church, he drew up a table of rules or suggestions for the special guidance of the parishoners, and also instituted periodical meetings of some of the neighbouring clergy, at which each member in turn "read a Latin lecture upon two heads of Theology" as a subject for discussion, and at these gatherings new books were also introduced and circulated by exchange. Barksdall's Church views are very clearly set forth in a manifesto framed by him on behalf of himself and his congregation, in reply to the attacks made upon him by the extreme Puritan clergy of the locality, with whom he on one occasion engaged in a public "Disputation" in Winchcombe parish church. "We adhere," he says, "to the same Church as it was in Queen Elizabeth's time defended against the Roman by Jewel's Apology, and against the Innovators by Hooker's Ecclesiastical Politie." On resigning the living of Sudeley, he retired to Hawling, a small village about 5 miles

south-east from Winchcombe, and there opened a school, which he carried on successfully, and had several pupils of rank, and it was during this period that the collection of verses in Greek, Latin, and English, called by him "Nympha Libethris, or the Cotswold Muse, presenting some extempore verses to the Imitation of young scholars" was written. I have been turning over the leaves of the copy of the 1st edition in the British Museum, published in 1651, and from it I have extracted the following, which perhaps some present Abendonian, feeling acutely, as I have often done, the almost intolerable burden of a sweltering afternoon in school, will make an effort in a future number to render into adequate English.

"IN SCHOLAM TORRIDAM.

Fervida sole calet nimis Schola, maxime Phœbe,
Mitius in terras radiantia lumina sparge!
Nec te adeo fallit; nosti namque omnia Phœbus;
Hæc sibi cœlestes assumunt limina Musæ:
Sunt et adhuc teneræ plantæ (audi mente paterna?)
Nec sufferre valent fervorem solis iniqui."

This little volume of only 96 pages, arranged in four parts, is now extremely rare, and consequently valuable, but its contents sufficiently show that Barksedall's poetic faculty, at any rate, was very limited. A reprint, of 40 copies only, was published in 1816 by Sir Egerton Brydges, Bart. His other works, about 30 in number, include a "Life of Grotius," 1652; translations from this and other authors; historical, theological and biographical compilations, and sermons, a list of which is given by Wood, and also in the new "Dictionary of National Biography." At the Restoration he was presented to the livings of Naunton and Stow-on-the-Wold (Glos.), and continu-

ed to hold them till his death, which occurred at Naunton, 23 Nov. 1670; and in the tower of the church is a brass to his memory with the following inscription:

D.S.

CLEMENS BARKDALLVS,

Artium Magister,
Evangelii Minister,
Quotidie orans,
Quotidie moriens,
Jubet te, viator,
Cælestem Patriam
Cogitare
IXb. XXIII, MDCLXX,
Ætat LXI.

Barksedall's wife, Mary (Charlton) was buried at Winchcombe in 1653; and it appears that he had a family of seven children, three girls and four boys, to whom he indites some lines in Part II. of the "Nympha Libethris." His son Charlton Barksedall matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1667, when only 15, but had been a chorister there from 1663, and he was afterwards, from 1676, rector of Hawling, where his father had once lived. Charles, another son, matriculated at Wadham College in 1668.

By the kindness of Mrs. Dent, of Sudeley Castle, I am able to present with this memoir a facsimile of the signature of Clement Barksedall, engraved for her well-known and extremely valuable work, the "Annals of Winchcombe and Sudeley," to which I am also indebted for the some of preceding particulars.

Clement Barksedall. 1637

The autograph, as appears from the date, belongs to the earlier part of Barksdall's career, and is in a species of engrossing hand, which, possibly, was the style taught in the school in his day, but Astle, in his book on "The Origin and Progress of Writing," says nothing about it as a scholastic exercise, so I am obliged to leave this interesting question wholly to conjecture.

A Brief Memorial of Abingdon School by B. Blundell, F.S.A., 1863. Wood's *Athenae Oxon.* iv. 221-5. Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*. Dict Nat. Biog. Mrs. Dent's *Annals of Winchcombe and Sudeley*, 1877. The Disputation at Winchcombe, 1653. Dr. Lempriere's *Univ. Biog.*

W. H. R.

OLD ABINGDONIANS ON THE RIVER.

A paragraph appeared lately in the "Lock to Lock Times," reproaching the young men of Abingdon for failing to appreciate the boon they possess in the river Thames. The writer regarded it as somewhat remarkable that the young men of Abingdon had not sufficient spirit and energy to form a boat-club. Herein he showed ignorance of the facts. In the past there have been several boat-clubs formed in Abingdon. The difficulty has always been to keep them going after the novelty had worn off. Once there was an Abingdon Regatta, such as you would expect at a town of its size, and having a good reach close at hand. But boat-clubs and regatta alike have died from want of support like many other clubs and institutions in this town. It is highly satisfactory however that amid this want of interest in rowing on the

part of the town people, the members of Abingdon School have maintained a rowing club for a good many years. Rowing is not perhaps practised so regularly or so systematically as it once was; but then the numbers of the School were once nearly double what they now are, and it was possible to keep up an efficient crew and an efficient cricket xi, which did not interfere with one another. Now the same boys are in some cases required to give their services to both sports, and cricket is generally regarded as having the first claim; consequently few boys can devote themselves entirely to rowing. That they have generally however made the most of their opportunities is shown by the successes achieved by old Abingdonians on the river at Oxford and elsewhere. The fact that *five* old Abingdonians (inclusive of a coxswain) were among the competitors at Henley this year is distinctly worthy of record. Three of these did battle for the London R. C. W. E. Robinson rowed two in their Grand Challenge eight. This eight was considered as rather above the average, and to get into it immediately on joining the club was very creditable indeed. Robinson also stroked the L. R. C. second four, which rowed for the Wyfold Cup. The brothers P. A. N. and F. E. Thorn, both of whom have rowed for the L. R. C. at Henley before, this year entered for the Silver Goblets. Though unsuccessful they were generally acknowledged to be the neatest pair of the lot, and over a less severe course would no doubt hold their own against any rivals. The two remaining Abingdonians, J. W. Veysey and A. B. Morland were six and cox.

respectively in the Pembroke crew, which rowed for the Ladies and Thames cups. Though none of the gentlemen mentioned were successful they were far from being disgraced. The London crew in the Grand Challenge succumbed only after a magnificent race to a remarkably powerful Leander crew. The Thorns yielded before superior stamina, but quite justified their entrance. So also did the Pembroke crew. They coming from the smallest college at Oxford, were beaten, first by 1st Trinity, the largest boat-club at Cambridge, and secondly, by Dublin University, the latter after one of the best races at the regatta.

A four composed of the two Thorns, Veysey and Robinson would take a lot of beating. They would be, perhaps, as powerful a crew of Old Abingdonians as could ever have been got together at one time. Abingdon School has turned out a long succession of good oarsmen, and these four have more than maintained the tradition. When the school first took to boating would be a question for more ancient historians than most of the present contributors to "The Abingdonian." Possibly Thomas Tesdale, the first scholar, disported himself in an ancient wherry upon Culham Reach. However that may be, it will not be uninteresting to review briefly the chief performances of Abingdonians, past and present on the river since 1880, in which year a great revival took place. Previously, rowing was practised, but not with a view to any special annual contest. Even a Past *v.* Present race was not rowed every year as a matter of course. In 1880 someone or other con-

ceived a brilliant idea, "Why, he asked, should not the school crew enter for the Town Fours at Abingdon Regatta?" The idea was taken up pretty keenly. The Head Master, (Mr. Summers), of course had to be consulted. He replied that, provided that someone could be found to take the crew in hand as coach he had no objection to their competing, but of course they would have no chance. Mr. J. T. Morland having kindly undertaken the coaching, the over-ambitious project (as most regarded it) was proceeded with. The Town Fours were open to crews representing any club or society in the town. Besides the School, two fours entered from the then-existing Town Rowing Club. No little surprise was caused on the day of the Regatta when the better of these was handsomely beaten by the "boys" in the final heat. The following year the Town Rowing Club did not allow a repetition of this, but their intentions was frustrated. The School four again beat two strong Town fours. Possibly this had something to do with the collapse of the Town Club which took place before the next regatta. This year, 1882, a four was entered from the Army College, which then existed at the Abbey. To make a more interesting contest the school put on two crews. The second was beaten by the Army College, but the first was successful in the final heat. The school thus for the last three years in which an Abingdon Regatta was held carried off the Town Challenge Cup. Several of those who rowed made their mark subsequently. F. P. Lysaght, who rowed in 1880 and 1881, afterwards rowed in the Exeter boat, which was

Head-of-the-River, and which won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley. H. M. Digby rowed for the School in 1881 and 1882, and afterwards stroked the St. John's eight. Both these gentlemen were above the average of College Oarsmen, and might, if they had completed their full course at Oxford, have had a good chance of a place in the Trial Eights, or even in the University Crew. In the School first crew of 1882 rowed also W. A. Cory, who rowed in the Queen's eights two or three times. In the second crew were P. A. N. Thorn, mentioned above, and E. F. Shepherd, a prominent member, for some years of the St. Catharine's B.C. After the abandonment of Abingdon Regatta the School Boat Club regarded the Past and Present race as the chief event of the year. I believe this race has been annual since 1882 at least. Of the Abingdonians who have done well on the river since then may be mentioned C. Hallett (rowed for Oriel at Oxford and Henley); H. G. Rice (Pembroke); C. H. Payne (rowed in the Merton Torpid which made seven bumps in 1887, and afterwards in the Eight and Four); W. E. Robinson (St. Catharine's Eight, Oxford Trial Eights, and L. R. C.); F. G. Thorn (L. R. C.); J. W. Veysey (Pembroke Eight 1890 and 1891) and A. B. Morland (cox. Pembroke Eight 1889-91), the last four of whom have been spoken of above as competing at Henley this year. This is a record decidedly creditable to so small a school. May it always be equalled, or surpassed in years to come.

A. B. M.

SUMMARY OF CRICKET MATCHES

(Full account to appear in our next issue in September.)

- (1.) May 27th. v. Abingdon C.C.
Score A.S.C.C. 40 and 34 for 5 wickets.
Abingdon Town 73.
- (2.) June 6th. v. Reading School.
Score A.S.C.C. 56 and 87.
Reading School 56.
- (3.) June 13th. v. Thame School.
Score A.S.C.A. 55 and 74.
Thame 69 and 49 for 8 wickets.
- (4.) June 20th. v. Abingdon C.C.
Score A.S.C.C. 50
Abingdon C.C. 85 and 81.
- (5.) June 27th. v. Reading School.
Score A.S.C.C. 68 and 68.
Reading School 37 and 39.
- (6.) July 4th. v. Hagbourne C.C.
Score A.S.C.C. 44.
Hagbourne C.C. 50.
- (7.) July 6th. v. Mr. C. E. Simpson's
Score A.S.C.C. 78 and 30 for 6 wickets.
Mr. Simpson's xi 101.
- (8.) July 8th. v. St. John's School.
Score A.S.C.C. 78 and 30 for 6 wickets.
St. John's School 49
- (9.) July 11th. v. Hagbourne C.C.
Score A.S.C.C. 48 and 46 for 6 wickets.
Hagbourne C.C. 47 and 46.
- (10.) July 13th. v. Thame School.
Score A.S.C.C. 116.
Thame School 51 and 42 for 7 wickets.
- (11.) July 18th. v. Wantage School
Score A.S.C.C. 34 and 10.
Wantage School 21 and 61.
- (12.) July 22nd. v. Wantage School
Score A.S.C.C. 44 and 37 for 3 wickets.
Wantage School 49.

CHARACTERS OF CRICKET XI.

- N. A. SAUNDERS, perhaps the best bat in the team, fields well and makes an excellent change bowler.
- F. BENNETTS one of the best fielders and most reliable bats in the eleven.
- W. T. MORLAND, perhaps the best all round man in the team, his bowling and fielding being especially good, but he has had bad luck with the bat.
- W. L. RUSSWORM, batting fair; his fielding has considerably improved on form shown at the commencement of the season.
- R. SHOPLAND, an excellent bowler and fielder and generally to be relied on for runs.
- A. P. BLANDY, a good hitter, his runs generally have been made at most important times, but his fielding is by far his weakest point.
- H. L. DRIVER has the making of an excellent wicket keeper, but when batting is inclined to let off more than necessary balls off the wickets and so rarely manages to run up a score.
- F. BAKER, except for his slackness is a good bowler and generally manages to make runs.
- H. G. VEYSEY, a fair bat but sticks too much to one stroke, his fielding has improved.
- H. E. MALLAM, fair bat but a little too careful of his shins and hands when fielding.
- F. H. PRYCE has captained the team with great energy and success. Is a good bat but out of luck this year, bowls very fast but somewhat erratic and fields excellently.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OXFORD LETTER.

To the Editor of the "Abingdonian."

DEAR SIR,

It is a formidable task for an illiterate Philistine to write a letter for a magazine of such high literary excellence as the "Abingdonian;" but as your command means my compliance, although writing under difficulties many and serious, I will readily try to divest myself of circumstances, and give some of last terms news.

As the most important part of an Oxford letter is the rowing news, I will at once plunge into the subject of the Eights.

The weather was certainly more like February or March than May, but this did not prevent a large number of visitors from assembling on the barges.

The week's racing left B.N.C. for the third consecutive year head—a circumstance which seems to please everybody. Pembroke, I think, deserves special mention, both from the fact that it is so closely connected with our old school, and also because of its great success in the races. Starting thirteen it made five bumps in the first four nights, and on the other two was only six feet behind Hertford at the finish.

Exeter was a fast boat, and managed to bump four out of the five, Pembroke passed down. Nothing of any importance happened in the Lower Division.

St. Mary Hall, after an absence of some years, again put in an eight, and went up two places.

Jesus was up to its usual form.

Three old Abingdonians took part in the races; C. H. Payne rowing four in the Merton boat; A. B. Morland coxing Pembroke, and J. W. Veysey rowing six in that boat.

The Cricket xi this year was decidedly rank; the only match they won was against a fourth-class county—Oxfordshire. In the inter-varsity match they certainly surprised

everybody, as it was generally supposed that they were in for a single innings defeat.

Commemoration Week passed off with its usual festivities; the weather was delightful, so that Oxford assumed what the papers would call "a gay and animated appearance." It would be an endless task to try to give an account of all that happened; but if any one is anxious for one. I would refer them to the "Abingdon Herald."

These are the words of SIX.

To the Editor of the "Abingdonian."

DEAR SIR,

Could you allow me space in your paper to make a few suggestions towards a better management of the Reading Room? Hardly a year ago new cases for the illustrated papers were bought, and these are now in just as bad condition as the old ones then. I should think some course might be adopted to prevent this recurring again. I propose that one of us should be appointed librarian for the whole term, if any could be found to take it, and if not, a new one every week. Again I should suggest that book-rests should be fastened to the wall to hold the papers, which are now left on the table often in a pool of ink, or worse still on the floor to be trampled on. Hoping that something at any rate will be done.

I am, Yours etc..

A READER.

To the Editor of the "Abingdonian."

DEAR SIR,

The game of Fives, which in most schools is such a favourite seems to have entirely died out here. Couldn't some of the masters and elder boys interest themselves about the game by getting up not merely one tournament a year, but competitions of some sort or other every term? One tournament about once in two or three years is hardly enough, for the boys seem to lose their

interest in the game almost as soon as the tournament is over, and the courts are deserted until the next tournament. The courts are certainly close at hand, but are very far from being in a flourishing condition, yet that is no reason why the game should be given up, and I have no doubt that if the game was played regularly and that if the masters as well as the boys took an interest in it the Governors when asked, would see that the courts were kept in a proper condition. Fives is not only an interesting and skilful game, but it also gives plenty of healthy exercise to the players; in the winter a game of fives would make a boy infinitely warmer than if he were to keep his hands in his pockets all day doing nothing or to sit over a fire. Besides, if this game were taken up probably a good deal of mischief, which is now done both on and off the school grounds, would not be done, and perhaps a good many of the boys would not be loafing about doing nothing as they have been during the last few years, for fives is a game that can be played at any odd time. Well, I am afraid I can't say that my attempts to promote the playing of the game have ever been very great, although I can say that I have once or twice got a ball and tried to induce some of the boys to play, but they have always declined, much to my disgust; but though I haven't been very successful yet there is no reason why the next person, who tries, shouldn't be more successful, and I hope that I shall soon see or hear that the game has not only been taken up at Abingdon School, but that it is in a flourishing condition and that the courts are kept in good repair. "AN ADMIRER OF FIVES."

The Annual Subscription for this paper is 2/3. The Secretary will be glad to have Names and Addresses of those wishing to be Subscribers.