

Misericordias Domini



in aeternum cantabo.

# THE ABINGDONIAN

No 4. Vol 1.

OCTOBER, 1891.

Price 6d.

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## EDITORIAL.

THE Abingdonian has now been in existence a year—not a long time certainly, but still long enough to encourage some of our friends to become annual subscribers, and to falsify the predictions of one or two amateur prophets, who foresaw an early end to our undertaking. We have not only exceeded the number of issues allotted to us by the most optimistic of our critics, but we have succeeded (contrary to our

expectation) in selling them; and though we can hardly as yet call the paper a financial success, still it is something for one so young to be able to boast that it is able to subsist without parental assistance.

On our return from our holidays we found another exemplification of the old proverb that “it is an ill wind that blows no one any good.” The wet weather which we had for seven weeks more or less anathematised in language forcible indeed, but still fit for publication, had been distinctly favourable to the growth of grass. We had some idea of starting haymaking on our account, and deluding ourselves with the idea that summer was here at last; but recollecting that however ably our hands wielded the editorial pen, they had little experience in the management of the scythe, we dismissed the idea and adopted an easier method of ridding ourselves of the grass. We went to a farmer in the neighbourhood and asked him to turn some sheep

into the playground. This he kindly consented to do, after we had convinced him that the attraction which sheep had for small boys, was not irresistible, as he supposed, but would readily yield to the persuasive influence of the Captain of Football's boot. The sheep are in all appearance enjoying a period of calm and uninterrupted bliss.

Instead of the practice games with which the football season usually begins, the school team played three matches on consecutive half holidays with the Town. The reason for this deviation from the regular custom, was that the Town XI. will have to play their first round in the Junior Cup ties in a few days, and their captain wanted to get his men together. We wish them every success, and hope that they will bring the cup in triumph to Abingdon.

The games were most enjoyable in themselves; but of the conduct of a portion of the spectators we think that we may justly complain. It is only fair to say that by such cries as *Knock 'em down* the players were themselves utterly unmoved, but engaged as we were in a friendly match, we naturally felt somewhat aggrieved by the jeers and cries incentive to violence with which the roughs present followed the course of the game. If this rougher element cannot be reached by any moral suasion, at any rate a larger attendance of the better sort would go far towards putting an end to a state of things which is really a disgrace to the town.

Abingdon Fair has come and gone. But for it this paper would have appeared earlier by some days. Its attractions have proved too powerful for many of

our contributors; and since we have no printer's devil at our beck and call, we have been compelled to do all the badgering in our own person. It was no doubt the fulfilment of our editorial duties (for we knew where we should find the delinquents), and not the "sound of revelry by night" that brought us out from our sanctum, and lured us on to try the delights of the switchback, and to view the performance of Faust, anglicised not merely in name. And now we have returned to our labour and solitary lamp, *moerentes stultos praeteriisse dies*.

We congratulate the Governors of Christ's Hospital for having at last put a gate at the entrance to our drive, and such an one. We all wondered whether we had not made a mistake on the evening of September 21st, when arriving back from the holidays in the dusk of the evening we were faced with this magnificent structure, surmounted by a series of concentric circles, a perfect example of geometrical drawing and technical education. Perhaps the Governors chose this design intentionally. We hope it will receive better treatment than the old one, which had to fulfil two capacities, its natural one, and its un-natural one, *i.e.*, a public swing.

We deeply regret that Mr. Kenny has left, after six years work amongst us. He will be missed by us all, especially by the ladies of Abingdon, for he was a great favourite both on the river and the tennis lawn, being always a ready helper and an amusing companion.

He has gone to Durham University, and we know that all his friends will join with us in wishing him every success.

We cannot help regretting that Old Boys don't come and see us oftener, they will be always welcome.

We noticed on Founder's Day last Term but a very few of even the faces familiar to us, we mean our contemporaries,—to say nothing about those unknown to the present generation—who apparently will not accept the hospitality offered them on that day and the preceding, when the Old Boys' Match and Boat Race come off.

We hope in future years they will shew a more clannish spirit and assist to pull together for the good of their old School.

We regretted very much the absence of the wife of our Head Master on Founder's Day, especially as it was caused through illness; but we are glad to learn that after a tedious period of some months, Mrs. Cam has returned very much improved in health, and we all hope her recovery will soon be complete.

We missed several familiar faces on returning this Term, for seven of our number left last July, including no less than five members of the Football and Cricket team. Townsend has gone to Pembroke College, Oxford; Bennetts has gone to S. Mary's Hospital, London, and Drivert to the Hospital at Portsmouth; Pryce has begun to study the law, and Shopland is looking forward to a life of engineering. The other two, Baker and Morley, seem at present to be taking a holiday after the great mental exertions of school life. May they all turn out a prosperous lot, and live to be a credit to their old school.

We should like to let the Old Boys know that the Reading Room Committee has started a list of honorary members; and some have already availed themselves of this privilege. The Terminal Subscription is within the limit of everyone; consequently by their aid we hope to be able another Term to increase our papers and periodicals.

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## EXPERIENCES ON THE CONTINENT.

### "THE JOURNEY HOME."

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We left Freiburg late one Sunday night. A large and sympathetic crowd of Englishmen came to see us off, and got into trouble (as we subsequently heard) with the police. We were little better than beggars; but that is usually the case with people returning from abroad: in fact, I have never known anybody come back from the Continent without having to borrow his fare home. We had our tickets and a few pfennings (about eight of which go to a penny) but nothing more. We had made out our plans very carefully. We were to go by train as far as Mainz; there we should have about two hours for breakfast, before catching the boat which was to have the privilege of conveying us down the Rhine from Mainz to Rotterdam. We had been very particular about allowing ourselves plenty of time for breakfast; we had determined to have (considering our slender means) a very sumptuous breakfast; and whenever we woke from our fitful slumbers in the train, feeling miserable, the thought of that breakfast cheered our

hearts. It happened, however, that some specially malignant Fates were on duty that day; or else the fellow who looked out the train had been hopelessly insane at the time (as we took care to tell him). Anyhow we did not reach Mainz till about half-an-hour after the boat was due to start. We sent one fellow on at once and told him to get hold of the Captain (if by any chance the boat had not left) and detain him somehow; while we ourselves stopped to look after the luggage. With great difficulty we got hold of three ruffianly-looking bargees, and putting them in charge of our belongings, started for the river. We got there just in time. Our herald had done his part nobly; he was a fellow who was always telling stories which never had any point in them. There was one particular story which he had tried many times to interest us in, and had always failed signally—in fact he never got beyond a sentence or two before we turned him out. On reaching the boat he made straight for the Captain and at once began his favourite story. The Captain was a polite man, and at first was all attention. By degrees however, he began to grow impatient, but our friend held on intrepidly. The Captain tried to break in once or twice, but the narrator calmly took him by the button-hole—he had got a chance of telling his story and he didn't mean to lose it. The Captain stamped, and I grieve to add, swore, but it was all lost on that earnest relator of pointless stories. When we came up the unfortunate navigator was on the brink of lunacy, from which our timely arrival just saved him.

So we started down the Rhine. The

Rhine scenery, especially from Bingen to Cologne, is indeed beautiful,—for details of which see Guide Books. It seems a pity that such beauties of nature should be thrown away, so to speak, on such an unappreciative race as the Germans. I once conversed with a German about the beauties of the Rhine, and I was at first surprised when he agreed that the scenery was beautiful. He went on, however, to say that the beauties of the Rhine consist in the National Denkmal (a colossal statue on the right bank, near Bingen). "When you have seen the Denkmal" he said with fervour, "you have seen the Rhine." This was characteristic. The Germans, as a race, do not care for scenery, but they have a morbid love for Denkmals.

The Rhine after Cologne is very wearying—there is no scenery, nothing but miles and miles of flatness. It was a great relief to us when we reached Rotterdam and went on board. After a somewhat rough passage we reached England and thus brought our tour to an end. We were all, on our arrival, more or less in rags and without money. I had been obliged, through sheer poverty, to come home in an odd pair of boots, one lace, the other elastic-side. On reaching London I had not any money for a cab or any such luxury, and as it was about five in the morning, I started to walk across from Liverpool street to Paddington. I verily believe that every boot black in London had posted himself in my path as I walked across—they made my very existence a misery—my humiliation was unspeakable, as I hadn't the courage to display my 'delapidations' to them. I walked for miles trying to hide my feet all the time;

I went by bye-lanes and slums, but it was no use—go where I would I couldn't scape the ubiquitous shoe black. At last, however I reached Paddington, and in a few hours was at home.

Such were my experiences in the Fatherland two years ago. Since then I have been again in the Great Kaiser's dominions, and found his subjects no less stolid, no less phlegmatic, but at the same time no less good-hearted than they were before.

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## OLIM ALUMNI.

### II.

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#### SIR THOMAS SMITH, KT.

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In continuing the biographies of distinguished Scholars of Abingdon School, I pass now from the poet and divine to one who was a courtier and a trusted servant of the crown.

SIR THOMAS SMITH was a native of Abingdon, but his parentage can hardly it seems, be determined with certainty. "God and himself," says Fuller, "raised him to the eminency he attained unto, unbefriended with any extraction;" but Wood, writing at a later period, declares that he "was born of sufficient parents," and I venture to assume that he was that "thomas y<sup>e</sup> son of thom<sup>as</sup> Smythe," who appears in the register of St. Helen's as christened on the 26th Oct., 1556, and was possibly related to the Thomas Smythe who was mayor of Abingdon in 1567/8. It is on Wood's testimony that we are informed of his having been "educated in grammar learning in the Free School founded by Joh. Royse," probably during

the head-mastership of Mr. Argall; he afterwards proceeded to Oxford, and in 1573 appears as a student of Christ Church. He was admitted to the degree of B.A., 17th Dec., 1574, being then, if my conjecture as to his baptism is correct, above 17 years of age, which is quite reasonable, knowing as we do, that at this period, "lads were allowed to matriculate in mere boyhood, at any age between their twelfth and sixteenth years." He was presented for, or, according to the then current term, "licentiated" to the M.A. degree, 17th June, 1578, and in 1582, April 9th, was elected to the office of Public Orator in the University which post he held for twelve years, resigning it on the 17th May, 1594, when apparently, he was a resident at Greenwich. In the meantime he had also, in 1584, served the responsible office of Proctor, and "about that time," says Wood, "he being esteemed a religious and discreet gentleman, was made secretary to that popular Count, Robert, Earl of Essex, who had an especial respect for him." In 1591, the Chancellorship of the University became vacant by the death of Sir Christopher Hatton, and the election being fixed for Dec. 17th, Smith either went or was sent to Oxford on the 7th, in order, as he himself says in a letter to Dr. White, "to make Proof how this University standeth affected to my Lord:" and finding that by far the greater number of electors were disposed to support the candidature of the Earl of Essex, he straightway wrote to Sir Robert Cecil, Secretary of State, acquainting him with this fact, and begging him to "maintain both the Liberty of the University and the Love of the University Men towards to his Lordship." The

*This Thomas Smythe was a Quaker. Richard Smyth Mayor in 1564/5 is described as "a Quaker" - probably of the same name.*

minority, however, possessed superior influence at Court, and the result was, that notwithstanding this majority in favour of the Earl, Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, was chosen by letters from the Queen, to the great disappointment of Lord Essex, who, writing to Cecil on the 23rd from Rouen, whither he had gone with the forces sent by Elizabeth to the aid of Henry IV., declared that he "had lived too long to be so dealt withall by her he held so dear."

Mr. Smith was still holding his post of private secretary to Lord Essex in 1593, his patron being then Lord President of the Council, and between this date and 1596 his services were rewarded by his appointment as one of the Clerks of the Privy Council, which necessarily brought him into direct communication with the Queen. In May, 1597, he was employed in drawing up a schedule of the sea and land forces of the kingdom, for a second Armada had set sail for England, only however, like the first, to be wrecked and dissipated by the storms of the Bay of Biscay. Further promotion now awaited him; on the 30th Sept., in this year, he received a grant of the office of Clerk of the Parliament for life, with a fee of £40 a year, and on the accession of James I was knighted at Greenwich, with two other Clerks of the Council, May 20th, 1603. In the same year, (June 8th) a grant was made him "of grace especiall," of the office of Latin Secretary to the King, during pleasure, with an annual stipend of £26 13s. 4d. and a subsequent grant, in reversion after Sir George Herbert, of the office of Secretary and Keeper of the Signet to the Council of the North, "a Court set up in limitation of the Common

Law, and which wielded almost unbounded authority beyond the Humber."

Sir Thomas had now arrived at a considerable position, and it is not surprising that like many others both before and since, he should have begun to think of the acquirement of property, and of the advantages to be derived from the possession of a landed interest in the country. Accordingly, we find that in 1604, (June 9,) he obtained a grant for himself and Edmund Lassells, a groom of the Chamber, and their heirs, of the Manor of Wing, in Rutlandshire, and of lands in several other counties, and a little later (June 22nd), of the parsonage of Wresall or Wressel and others in Yorkshire, and in 1608 a lease of the farm and rectory of Rothfen or Ratfen in Wilts, from the town and hospital of St. Cross, Winchester, besides which, it appears from his will that he had acquired various other possessions.

It was at this time that the King, in the words of De Foe, "began (before he had learned quite to forget his own country) to project a more near Union of the nations, as the only way to make them both completely happy." Commissioners were therefore appointed on both sides to treat on this proposal, and being met at Westminster, drew up articles which were presented to His Majesty, 6th Dec., 1604. Sir Thomas, as Clerk of the Upper House of Parliament, was appointed to attend the Commissioners, and there appears a warrant under date 17th Dec., to pay him certain sums of money for this service; but the scheme, great as were its advantages, created difficulties, and was allowed to lapse.

The Clerks of the Council had, it appears, lost some of their privileges, especially the liberty of being present at most Councils, and it was on this account possibly that Sir Thomas had determined to dispose of his office at the Council, then a common and allowed practice, but in this instance Cecil, now Lord Cranborne, had, apparently unknown to Sir Thomas, granted the reversion of the post to Mr. (afterwards Sir Ralph) Winwood, to the infinite chagrin of the former, and all the more, because Winwood, having accepted the reversion, was acting as resident representative in Paris of Sir Henry Neville, the English ambassador, at this time absent in England. Sir Thomas therefore made up his mind that if he was not to be allowed to sell, he would press for Winwood's return, and he seems to have done this with some success, for in Winwood's Memorials (II. 198) there is a letter to Winwood, dated 11th March, 1605, from Sir H. Neville, who had been trying to find out why the former was to be recalled from employment, and he says:—

"Whilst I was in these doubts.....I chanced to meet with Sir Thomas Smith in Westminster Hall in good leasure, and fell into some speech with him about it: But no sooner had I named it, but he entered presently into a passionate complaint of the Wrong you had done him, first by accepting the Clerkship of the Councill when he had opened his Purpose to you of selling his Place, whereby he was disappointed of that intended benefit; and since by interposing yourself between any other and the Place, that otherwise might be drawn into it, upon Pretence of a Wrong to you if any Man should step before you: so, as he concluded, he was lockt up in the Place, and forced to be a Druggie in it, only to preserve it for you, who in the meantime enjoyed a Place of Honour and Profit."

Samuel Calvert, writing to Winwood a month later (6 April, 1605), says:—  
"Sir Thomas Smith storms secretly, but he cannot

help himself. He would faine have passed his Office to Mr. Jones, which my Lord Cranborne peremptorily crossed."

So it is clear that in the end Sir Thomas's designs were substantially frustrated.

In November of this year occurred the famous Gunpowder Plot, and although his name is not mentioned in connection with it, his feeling towards the conspirators is strongly expressed in a letter, dated Feb. 12th, 1606, to Sir Thomas Edmondes, his colleague, who had been sent over to Flanders to watch the proceedings of the Jesuit Fathers Owen and Baldwin. He writes:—

"And for all others here, that under pretence of conscience do harbour such evil affection to the State, it is pity but their heads were where their hearts are—at Rome; that the hangman here might be no more troubled with them.....But when all is done, this bloodstain and mark will never be washed out of the Popish religion."

At the beginning of May, 1608, Sir Thomas, still retaining his Clerkship of the Council, was made Extraordinary Master of the Court of Requests, in which, says Stow, (II. 630) "all suits made to the King or Queen by way of petition were heard and ended. This was a Poor Man's Court, because there he should have right without paying money," and in the margin he writes:—"Sir Thomas Smith's Commonweal;" from which we may judge, as indeed will appear later, that the good Knight had great sympathy for poor folk and such especially as were in perplexity or distress. Whatever irritation Sir Thomas may have felt at the loss of his bargain with Mr. Jones, may be taken to have now vanished, for not only was he advanced to his new office, but such being the confidence reposed in him, he was permitted to execute some part of duties of Secretary of State, to use the

words of Sir H. Neville, "in going between the King and his Lords in ordinary matters to ease my Lord." A great honour, indeed, and nothing could better show the esteem in which this and his other public services were held, than the fact that on the 20th of the same month a grant was made to him of a pension of £100 for life.

*This Memoir will be continued in the next number, when it is proposed to give an illustration of the monument to Sir T. Smith in Fulham Church, and a facsimile of his autograph.*

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## REVIEW OF THE CRICKET SEASON.

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Our Cricket season was brought to a close as usual by the Past v. Present Match. We must all have been especially glad to win this year, since it was generally admitted that the team brought against us was stronger than any that has lately maintained the honour of the "Old Boys." Out of the fourteen matches the First Eleven played, seven were lost, six won, and one drawn. So although we can scarcely congratulate ourselves on such figures, yet all who have taken any interest in the efforts of the team can but own that we were attended by an unusual run of bad luck throughout the season. To begin with, accidents, which we are glad to say have been in late years rare or at least of no serious consequences, this year deprived us of the services of two old members of the XI., namely, P. H. Morland and F. Bennetts, the former of whom was only able to play in the first two matches owing to an unfortunate accident to his

hand, whilst the latter was similarly prevented from playing in one or two of the most important. Secondly, out of the seven matches we lost, one only required 6 runs to turn the tide in our favour, whilst in two others we only appeared to require a few more minutes to bring about the same result. The batting was far and away the worst feature of the Eleven, but it was satisfactory to see that three members of the team, namely, N. A. Saunders, A. P. Blandy, and R. Shopland stood with the same whole number at the top of the averages. The Bowling was far above all expectations, three members again, namely, F. H. Pryce, F. Baker and W. T. Morland, with averages respectively of 4·16, 4·31, and 4·73 being at the top of the list with the same whole number, and following them appear the names of N. A. Saunders and R. Shopland, with averages of 6·45 and 6·52. But it is due to W. T. Morland and R. Shopland to state that they were the two best bowlers of the Eleven, the former taking more than thrice, and the latter more than twice as many wickets as F. H. Pryce, who actually headed the list. The fielding also shewed remarkable improvement, and it is to be hoped that though so generally neglected it will in future be thought as worthy of practice as batting and bowling. Of the Juniors who equally divided their three matches among losses, wins and draws, little can be said, but they appeared to take a little more interest in their own Cricket and also even to have at heart the success of the actual representatives of the School on the Cricket ground.



## CRICKET MATCHES, 1891.

## A.S.C.C. v. ABINGDON C.C.

The first match of the year is seldom productive of any big scoring and this fixture afforded no exception to the rule. Such a result is easily accounted for when we take into consideration the fact that we had not long re-assembled and consequently had been able to get but little practice. Pryce won the toss and the school batted first, but the innings was more or less a procession to and from the wickets, for Saunders (13) alone reached double figures and the total only came to 40.

On taking the field we at first made up to some extent for our poor batting display, and as 2 wickets fell for 3 runs we seemed still to have a chance of winning, but alas! the 3rd wicket put on 37 runs and the innings eventually realized 73. Our fielding was on the whole good, and two smart catches were brought off by Mr. Hodgson and W. L. Russwurm. W. T. Morland captured 5 wickets for 19, a very good performance. Going in to bat a second time we compiled 34 for 6 wickets chiefly by the aid of Mr. Hodgson (not out 11) and Bennetts (9).

## A.S.C.C. v. READING SCHOOL.

A close finish always ensures an interesting match, and a 'tie' was the result of this fixture played at Reading. Of course a win would have been preferable, but the next best thing to a win is a 'tie.' Besides we showed signs of improvement, and if we did not compile a big score, at any rate three of the team got into double figures. Pryce again won the toss and elected to bat first. In the early part of the innings

Bennetts (12) and Saunders (15) played steadily for their runs, and later on Blandy displayed vigorous hitting powers. The rest did not do much and the total only reached 56.

They began badly and lost 6 wickets for 32 but the 'tail' played up well and when the last man came in the scores were level, but he was soon bowled and so the match was left drawn. The wickets were divided between Shopland and Morland, the former securing 4 for 13, the latter 6 for 12.

## A.S.C.C. v. THAME GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

We certainly had bad luck in losing this match, for if there had been a few more minutes left for play in the second innings we should probably have scored a win. Our opponents won the toss and were kind enough to put us in. Of this piece of charity we did not avail ourselves much and only put together 55, towards which Bennetts contributed 10 and Veysey 13, the latter playing very steadily and carrying his bat out.

Thame then responded with 69, but Deane who was top-scorer with 22 was missed by the wicket-keeper before he scored, and this was not the only catch dropped. On going in again we played a forcing game at which Russwurm showed himself an adept and knocked up 21 in a very short time. The score reached 74 which left them 61 to get in 50 minutes. In this time we only succeeded in getting eight of them out for 49, and so lost the game by 14 runs on the first innings.

## A.S.C.C. v. ABINGDON C.C.

We looked for revenge and found

none, for in this return fixture we suffered defeat by 35 runs. The Town had a great advantage in batting first, and all things considered 85 was not such a very big total. Towards this Wright contributed 19 and Ely 29, but the latter had several lives given him. W. T. Morland was the most successful bowler, capturing 6 wickets for 32 runs. When the school went to the wickets the bowling of Wright and Dandridge was too much for the majority of the team, and but for Mr. Paul and Shopland who each made 13 we should have fared badly indeed; as it was the total reached only 50 or 35 to the bad. In their 2nd attempt our opponents put together 81. Morland again did well in the bowling, and his record for the match was 10 wickets for 60, a performance for which he deserves great praise.

#### A.S.C.C. v. READING SCHOOL.

At last we come to a victory, and a substantial one into the bargain. For this happy result we have chiefly to thank R. S. Shopland who, in addition to batting well in both innings, captured altogether 10 wickets for 31 runs. A word of praise is also due to Blandy for his invaluable batting at a critical point in the first innings.

Play commenced at 11.30, and consequently there was time to play the match right through. The school batted first, and wickets fell rapidly, 6 being down for 24, then Shopland and Blandy came together and raised the score to 48, just doubling it. The innings closed for 68. Our opponents made an even worse start than ours, and at one time 8 wickets were down for 13, but the last wicket gave a lot of trouble and carried the

score to 37. Shopland's bowling analysis was 6 for 18. Our second innings was chiefly noteworthy for the free hitting of Shopland (18) and the capital cricket of W. T. Morland, whose 15 was his first double figure contribution of the season. Our total strangely enough came to 68, exactly the same as in the previous venture. Reading were thus left with exactly 100 to get, and of this number they only succeeded in compiling 39, and but for the careful batting of Tetley (a somewhat diminutive player) they would have collapsed altogether. Shopland this time secured 4 wickets for 13.

#### A.S.C.C. v. HAGBOURNE C.C.

This match was certainly an instance of cricket under difficulties. To begin with it rained hard during our drive over there, and this rain so damped the ardour of the Hagbournians that they they did not turn up till some time after 3 o'clock; and secondly the grass in the field was so much standing hay. For all this the game was a fairly enjoyable one, and the only drawback was our defeat by 6 runs. Our opponents took first innings and compiled 50, towards which Holt contributed 27 including 2 lost balls, and Mr. Baker who is doubtless remembered by many old Abingdonians was next 'top' scorer with 8.

The batting display of the majority of our team was feeble in the extreme, the only redeeming feature being the splendid attempt by W. L. Russwurm to save the game. This batsman at one time hit 5 twos in one over, and altogether was credited with 17 out of 44.

#### A.S.C.C. v. Mr. C. E. SIMPSON'S XI.

On Monday, July 6th, our old friend Mr. Simpson who was staying in the

town got us a half-holiday and brought up a team to play the school. The team included three of the masters and several members of the Town XI. Mr Simpson won the toss and took first innings, the main feature of which was the batting of H. Short, the Town man, who carried his bat right through for 49, made without any real chances. Mr. Hodgson also batted well for 12, and Mr. Kenny stayed in a long time for 11. Pryce was the most successful bowler, his four wickets only costing him 10 runs. The less said about our batting the better; no one reached double figures and the total only came to 40. We had of course to follow on, and this time showed to much more advantage, as after 5 wickets had fallen for 25 Russwurm and Bennetts got together and fairly collared the bowling. They raised the score to 51 and were both not out at the call of time.

#### A.S.C.C. v. S. JOHN'S SCHOOL.

The first of our annual matches with the above school fell through owing to reasons given in our last number; the second we won by 29 runs on the first innings. The School batted first and the outlook was not very promising at the beginning, as five wickets fell for 19. However Shopland (32) and Blandy (25) once more came to the rescue and took the score from 19 to 69; too much praise cannot be given them for their fine batting, which certainly won us the match. Shopland especially displayed excellent cricket, his driving on the off side being very vigorous. It is worthy of notice that not a single extra was given away in this innings.

The batting of our opponents does not call for much comment and was poor in the extreme. The first 8 wickets went

down for 24, but the last men gave some difficulty and at one time it seemed just possible that they might after all creep up to our total. This however was not to be, and the last wicket fell at 49. The bowling was divided between Shopland and Saunders, the former being credited with 6 wickets for 24 and the latter 3 for 12. On going in again we compiled 30 for the loss of 6 wickets and then rain stopped the game. Blandy was again to the front in the batting, and his 15 included a prodigious hit to square leg for 5.

#### A.S.C.C. v. HAGBOURNE C.C.

Encouraged by their victory in the previous match the Hagbournians arranged a return and came to Abingdon. This time, however, they were defeated by 4 wickets. They won the toss, and as their first wicket did not fall till 23 had been telegraphed they seemed to be in for a fairly big score, but the others failed to do much and the total only reached 47. Morland is to be warmly congratulated on his fine bowling performance, namely 7 wickets for 13 runs. On the school going in to bat, 9 wickets fell rapidly for 31, but Pryce and Baker played so well that amid intense excitement the score was raised to 48, when the former was bowled for 9. Being thus behind on the first innings our opponents tried a hitting game and quickly knocked up 46 for 4 wickets, towards which Holt contributed 17. We were thus left with 46 to get. Mr. Hodgson who went in first quickly hit 2 fours and a three, and 20 went up for 2 wickets. Two more men were out at the same total, and when 6 were out for 28 things looked serious. But Pryce and Shopland then knocked off the runs and much praise is due to the latter for his 15 not out.

#### A.S.C.C. v. THAME SCHOOL.

We amply revenged ourselves in this return fixture, for time alone saved our

opponents from a single innings defeat. We had the advantage of first innings on a run-getting wicket, and making full use of it hoisted the century for the first and only time throughout the season. The scoring was very consistent, no less than five members of the team securing double figures, namely, Blandy (26), Morland (23), Russwurm (17), Saunders (14), and Baker (13). Thame replied with 51, a larger score than seemed likely when 4 wickets had fallen for 7. We were lucky in getting Corbett their best bat run out when he was well set and had made 16. Morland took 4 wickets for 15, and Baker the same number for 16. In the follow on they did no better and at the call of time had made 42 for 7 wickets, Corbett being not out with 14 to his credit.

#### A.S.C.C. v. WANTAGE SCHOOL.

Wretchedly low scoring was associated with this match played on our ground on July 18th. Wantage went to the wickets first, and the whole innings was merely a procession from the pavilion to the wickets and the score only reached 21, of which Holloway made 10. Morland obtained 6 wickets for 7 runs! Our display was very little better and 6 wickets fell for 12 runs, but Blandy and Baker put a better aspect on the game and the score reached 34. In their second attempt they did much better, and put together 61. Shopland was dead off in this innings and got hit about tremendously, which helps to explain their success. Morland secured 4 wickets for 26, and Baker 3 for 7. Thus we had 49 to get, and to the surprise of all a regular 'rot' set in and the whole team were actually dismissed for for 10, and at one time 7 wickets were down for 3 runs.

#### A.S.C.C. v. WANTAGE SCHOOL.

This was the last regular school match of the season, and we were especially anxious to score a win, but were unable to do so. This time we had the advantage of batting first but failed to make use of it and were dismissed for the poor score of 44, towards which W. T. Morland contributed

11. Our opponents replied with 49, of which no less than 19 were byes, and in fact no one could be found to save them though several were tried. In the second innings we began well and scored 37 for 3 wickets, so that had not the rain wasted so much of the time we might have won after all. It may be mentioned that in both these matches the Wantage team included C. B. Hayden, an "Old Boy" both of Abingdon and Wantage Schools.

#### PAST v. PRESENT.

This match is always looked forward to with interest and generally proves one of the most interesting of the season. This year the task of getting up the "Old Boys" team was deputed to A. H. Lewis, last year's captain. He did his work admirably, and brought an XI. which was matched to a nicety with the school team. Play commenced at 11.30, and the school had to take the field first. Most of the 'Old Boys' seemed to have lost some of the skill which they must doubtless have possessed when they played for the school, for we got them all out for 33. J. W. Veysey displayed his old power of getting runs, and was top scorer with 13. Even this small total was too much for the present boys who were dismissed for 24, the top score on the side being no more than 6. T. E. Hodgson secured 5 of the wickets and A. H. Lewis 4.

Luncheon seemed to have a prejudicial effect on the bowlers, and on resuming the batsmen fared much better than before. In the 2nd innings of the Past, A. B. Morland was top scorer with 19, and his brother G. Morland came next with 7. The last wicket fell at 51, and the school were thus left with 61 to get to win. Grave doubts were felt about the performance of this task, but it was in the end accomplished. Wickets fell rapidly at first but when 5 were down for 34 Baker joined Bennetts, and these two considerably altered the appearance of the game. Still 6 runs were wanted when the last man went in, and it seemed all over when Mallam and Veysey showed a bold front and by hitting a 3 each won the match amidst intense excitement by one wicket.

[Back numbers may be obtained either from the Secretary or the Printer, W. H. Hooke.]

*William H. Hooke, Printer, Market Place, Abingdon.*