

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo.

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EDITORIAL.

Our numbers this term are 147—66 boarders and 81 day-boys: an increase of 14 over last term's total. With an entry of 29 (19 new boarders) the new boys quickly lost whatever shyness they may have had to lose. If they have not yet found themselves in complete control of the situation, perhaps the fault is rather ours than theirs; but we are glad to report that we seem to have made a tolerably good impression upon them to start with.

Otherwise we would appear to have "kept the noiseless tenour of our way." (The epithet is a poetic licence, but the general sentiment is unexceptionable.) Tranquillity is the watchword of our domestic policy. As regards external things, Governments may fall and new Governments rise upon their ruins, but so long as they persist, in a so-called Democracy, in withholding the franchise from schoolboys, our statesmen may search in vain in our pages for any word of condolence or congratulation.

O.T.C.

This term one should have a few remarks to make on the annual camp. But at the last moment it was decided by the camp medical authorities that we could not attend owing to sickness here at school. This is to be regretted, all the more so because thirty-two (a record number) were going to represent the contingnet, which last term numbered fifty-four cadets.

Last year twenty-three cadets over sixteen years of age were efficient, there being only one who failed to reach this standard. The best shot of the contingent was Sgt. Foottit with a score of 113 out of a possible of 120 in "Empire Test."

This term five cadets were entered for Certificate "A" and were successful in the practical examination, which was held at Radley College. It is hoped that they have met with like success in the written examination, which was held on Tuesday Nov. 14.

Through the kindness of the Officer Commanding Radley College O.T.C. we were able to join

them in an excellent field-day near Bloxham. We trained to Adderbury and there helped to form a battalion with the Radley and Rugby contingents. We then attacked and drove back a stubborn enemy (Cheltenham and Bloxham) through Bloxham to Hobb Hill.

The day was perfect and so was the tea given us in Bloxham School grounds. But it must be remarked in sorrow that this and the Banbury cakes were perhaps more appreciated by certain small yet rotund people than all the thrills of a close and arduous struggle.

A Lewis Gun (yet to come) has been added to the contingent's ever-increasing impedimenta.

Also we have two wireless sets described as "W.T. Sets Trench, Continuous Wave."

The strength of the contingent is sixty cadets, but for training purposes there are now two platoons, their commanders being Sgt. Foottit and Corp. Stiles. The following promotions have been made:—Cadets Wood, Davidge, Stevens, and Spencer to be lance corporals.

Without the permission of the Officer Commanding "Turk" has definitely appointed himself as Mascot and Chief Ba(r)ker.

THE ELEPHANT-KEEPER AND THE CONFECTIONER.

Abdul, the Emperor's Chief Mahout, mounted upon Dilshanker the largest of the Palace elephants, rode magnificently along the bazaar of the grain-sellers, seeking what he might devour. The bells of the elephant tinkled musically above the bustle and hubbub of the crowd, which was too familiar with the sight of Dilshanker to pay much attention to him, albeit he was the finest elephant in Asia. The approach of Abdul and his mount was not however observed without a covert emotion by the shopkeepers themselves. Seated in their open hutches with their wares about them, they were exposed helpless to the rapacity and insolence of the mahouts, who laid lawless hands, or caused their elephants to lay non-moral trunks, on almost anything that suited their fancy.

The Palace mahouts had long been in the habit of replenishing their larder by casual requisitions of this kind: but their exactions, owing to the character of their leader, had of late become systematic and almost intolerable. Nevertheless rigorous protest on the part of the merchants was rare. It is ill arguing with a man on the back of a battle-elephant, which seems to sympathize with

all his passing emotions. Resistance moreover was likely to make one a marked man. It was better to be quiet and conciliatory, and to pray that the visitation might pass and not recur. The shopkeepers of Delhi doubtless learned to attach a new and vivid emotion to an ancient but still highly popular phrase of the Indian poets, who liken the graceful carriage of a loved one to 'the gait of an elephant seen from behind.'

Ram Baksh, the confectioner, was unfortunate in having attracted the particular notice of the Chief Mahout. This fact was assuredly due to no undue self-assertiveness on the part of the shopkeeper, for he was as plump and oily and sweetly tempered as the ochre cakes of all shapes and sizes among which he presided. Ram, however, besides being a confectioner, was the owner of a little garden outside the city, in which grew a rather rare and very toothsome kind of plantain. Fine bunches of these plantains were often to be seen hung up in his stall for sale. Abdul had discovered this, and since both he and the elephant in his charge were particularly fond of the fruit in question, poor Ram Baksh soon found that he was growing the finest plantains in the neighbourhood almost entirely for the benefit of the grisly pair, and losing no small part of his income into the bargain.

Abdul's exactions in this particular had of late been so persistent that even his imbecile sense of moderation was visited with obscure compunction, and he was minded for once to leave the confectioner alone. The sunlight of the March forenoon, however, was oppressive, and the thought of the shade of the big tamarind, which grew to the east of Ram Baksh's stall, tempted him. As he reached the tree, moreover, a dainty little black bull strolled into the sunlight, chewing placidly what the fond eye of the mahout recognized as one of the fatal plantains. This little bull was known among intimates as Pinak, or more generally as Ram Baksh's bull. Not that the great Abdul knew the animal by name or even by sight, for he was only interested in Ram Baksh's belongings in so far as they affected his own convenience, and if he had seen Pinak he had never noticed him. As a matter of fact Pinak was not the property of Ram Baksh. Like most Indian bulls he was a communal institution, but he had formed the habit of taking his evening meal at least three days a week at the confectioner's shop, where a portion of grain was always kept for him. He would also call at other hours of the day for a casual plantain. In consequence

he throve exceedingly, and was clearly of opinion, whatever the legal position might be, that he belonged to Ram Baksh, or that Ram Baksh belonged to him. On this occasion, however, by coming for his plantain inopportunistly, he unwittingly did his protector a disservice. Perhaps Abdul reasoned that if there were still plantains to be given away they might as well be given to him. In any case he no sooner beheld the fruit in the bull's mouth than he steered his great elephant into the shade of the tamarind and brought him to a standstill opposite the stall where Ram Baksh and his dainties were enshrined.

Seeing no plantains displayed he was nettled, suspecting that the shopman had hidden them at the report of his approach. This was indeed the case, but the confectioner had overlooked the single fruit which he had laid on the edge of the stall for the benefit of the bull Pinak, his legitimate pensioner, who had innocently shewn it to the enemy.

'What is this, O prince of confectioners?' cried the mahout, 'Have you never a plantain for Dilshanker, the elephant of the Emperor?' With ironical modesty he refrained from mentioning his personal disappointment.

'Alas, Maharaj,' replied the confectioner, 'your honour has already accepted the whole increase of the garden, and I have nothing left wherewith to defray the expenses of culture, and to feed my family. It will be more profitable for your honour to seek elsewhere for what is needful, for I am a poor man, and my means are exhausted.'

'For shame, Ram Baksh!' cried the Mahout. 'Look under the counter, man, and see whether you have not as fine a fruit for the big elephant as you had for the little black bull. Be not too long about it, either, or he may be moved to stay his appetite with some of your excellent cakes in the meanwhile.'

The merchant again begged to be excused, and the Mahout, exasperated by the sullen obstinacy which appeared plainly enough behind his subservient phrases, ordered the elephant, who seemed to understand the situation as clearly as his rider, to help himself to the contents of the stall.

A number of cakes had already disappeared into the shadow of Dilshanker's cavernous throat, when the fumbling trunk, either roving at random or informed by the intelligence of appetite, found its way over the edge of the counter to the stalk of a bunch of plantains which the merchant had hidden, and proceeded to drag them into the light of day. The bunch was a very large and heavy

one, and the bulging fruits, in the course of their journey across the counter, spread ruin among the stacks of confectionery, and finally, becoming entangled in the little brazen scales and the curious vessel of the same substance on which they rested, and in which the confectioner kept his ready cash, hoisted them into the air and spilled them into the street amid a brown cascade of less resonant cakes and dumplings. The unlucky confectioner, who had regarded the initial depredations with resignation, broke into loud lamentations when he saw the money fly, calling upon his father and mother and all his gods, and rising with agitation from his throne, hardly refrained by habitual timidity from rushing to collect his scattered gains and goods from between the very feet of the dreadful spoiler of his wealth and peace.

Abdul the Mahout leaned back and laughed aloud at the heathenish ululations of his victim, at the same time stretching out his hand to receive the splendid spoil from the trunk of the elephant. The merchant, in his opinion, had by his shameless duplicity forfeited all claim, not only to the plantains, but to whatever pity might otherwise have been due to him for the derangement of his wares. The Mahout's fingers were already closing on the stalk of the bunch of plantains when he felt a thrill run through the bulk of his bestial accomplice, who the next moment whirled the precious plantains far into the sky, and with a squeal of terror, and a suddenness which almost flung the mahout from his neck, started, at first with an odd staggering motion, and then at the full length of his stride, to charge down the narrow and crowded street, as if the imprecations of the shopman had indeed materialized and set about him, and all the phantoms of Eblis were biting at his heels.

A crowded Indian bazaar is able to clear itself with astonishing quickness when the need is really pressing, and the elephant had a perfectly free run of nearly a hundred yards. He ran so fast that the mahout was unable to bring him to a stand before, as he was afraid of oversetting him. Even as the people fled for their lives before him Abdul was impotently conscious that his passing somehow turned their sudden terror into infinite hilarity, and he was rather sorry that nobody was run over. His hasty backward glances showed him nothing to account for his beast's panic but the reassembling marketers, who were evidently of opinion that something was happening too funny even for derision, and fit for nothing less than ecstatic laughter.

At last the mahout was able to bring his beast to a walk and swing him suddenly round. The long lane of the bazaar cleared again as if by magic, and alone in the middle of the road, about forty yards away, stood the little black bull Pinak, tossing his head and pawing the ground, as if challenging the elephant to return to his preserve. What had happened was evident. The faithful little animal, roused by his master's outcry, and sagaciously connecting his unusual perturbation with the unusual presence of the elephant, had suddenly butted into the great brute from behind. Dilshanker, taken by surprise, and seized with strange terror at these 'pangs unfelt before,' had sought refuge in disgraceful flight, while the little bull followed and prodded him as he ran. The furious Abdul at once ordered the great elephant to advance and destroy the presumptuous bull, and Dilshanker, nothing loth when confronted with a visible antagonist, strode forward with his trunk up-curved and his enormous tusks watchfully levelled. The crowd looked on breathless or uttered little groans of apprehension, for the prowess of Dilshanker in elephant-fights was proverbial, and he was also, like many of the Emperor's elephants, a trained executioner. But the dauntless little bull knew nothing of all this. He waited motionless until his huge adversary was almost standing over him. Then there was a spurt of dust, and the elephant and his rider and the waiting crowds lost sight of him. In the twinkling of an eye he had dodged almost between the legs of the charging monster, and the next moment was butting and prodding him in the rear with the same well-directed vigour as before. The mighty Dilshanker was quite unused to these tactics, and perhaps considered them unfair. In any case the wrath of battle within him was incontinently turned into the same shameless panic as before, and in spite of the almost tearful entreaties and imprecations of his mahout he fled ignominiously down the long arena, pursued and prodded by the energetic Pinak, who did not cease from troubling until they were well past Ram Baksh's tamarind-tree; while the pace of the defeated elephant hardly abated until he was out of sight.

What dainties, what endearments, what almost divine honours were showered upon the gallant conqueror may well be imagined. But the story of Pinak does not end here. The rumour of his prowess soon followed the humiliated chief of the mahouts to the Palace, and it was told the Emperor, saying, 'A little bull of the bazaars has put Dilshanker to flight in open combat.' That afternoon,

to the dismay of Ram Baksh and all his fellow-demesmen, an order arrived that the little bull should be brought at once to the Palace; and the same evening the Emperor himself and all the Princes of the blood, and all the ladies of the zenana, and all the emirs of the Court, were gathered upon the terraces, which overlooked the waste of sand between the Palace and the river, to see the strange tournament renewed between the confectioner's bull and the fiercest and strongest of the Emperor's elephants. The tactics and the result alike of the morning's encounter were exactly repeated for their benefit; they saw at their ease the furious charge of the elephant, the sudden dust-screen and quick turning-movement of the little bull, the attack from the rear, and the undignified flight of the disgusted tusker. This might have been supposed a sufficient entertainment, but some of the royal princes were not satisfied until the bull had been matched in succession against four more of the strongest and fiercest fighting-elephants of the royal stud, all of which he hustled from the field in the same manner, which a distinguished general compared to the battle-tactics of the Usbeg Tartars.

Whether the Emperor was entirely pleased I do not know, but like most of his line he was a thorough sportsman and he offered large sums to Ram Baksh to be allowed to keep the little bull at the Palace. The good Ram declined the money and begged as a yet more gracious boon that the little bull might not be taken away from the bazaar. This boon the Emperor finally granted, and dismissed the confectioner with a considerable largess, to which the princes of the blood added another; but the happiest result of the day's events, in the opinion of Ram Baksh and his neighbours, was the fact that the insolent Abdul and his mates never brought their elephants into the street of the grain-sellers again.

O.J.C.

THE LILY AND THE APPLES.

There came a tall white Lily
 Beneath an Apple tree,
 And the Apples laughing rosilily
 Asked how she came to be?
 "For we," they cried, "are beauteous,
 "And we are useful too;
 "But when your bloom is over,
 "What is the good of you?"

Then the Scent-Soul of the Lily
 Spread her fragrance sweet and strong,
 And a Poet caught a breath of her
 And breathed it into song.
 So when the apples' rosy flesh
 Had fed his baser part,
 The Spirit of the Lily
 Still lived within his heart !

E. A. R. B.

COTTA'S SATURDAY NIGHT.

[Vide 'Elementary Latin Exercises,' passim.]

He was a little wizened old man. The end of the week always found him exhausted after his many strenuous exercises. Having prepared for war, carried wounded men to the camp, and killed the condemned prisoners, amongst other things, he was pleased that to-morrow was Sunday. Just now he was awaiting his old friend Labienus, who was busy at the moment fortifying the camp with a small rampart.

There came a knock on the flap of the tent in which the old man sat, and Labienus entered. He was an immense man. His pointed beard was very tangled, and he had a habit of caressing it with one hand whenever he tried to solve a knotty point. He was fond, too, of uttering such profound maxims as "Wise men will not neglect the advice of the foolish," and "Let us fear those who fear us."

Behind him stepped six soldiers, each of whom bore on his back a large case. Having ordered his men to put the cases down on the ground he turned to Cotta and, obviously expecting the answer No, said "Surely you will not mind helping me with some sentences ? I have got two prisoners outside whom I wish to judge." Without waiting for the expected reply he told one of the soldiers to bring in the prisoners. The wretched captives were led in. "Now," said Labienus addressing them, "Which of you two revealed my plans to the enemy ?"

The younger prisoner, a man of great valour, replied, "We ascertained much about your army by means of spies." "No, no," exclaimed the other, "We had already ascertained much, before that."

Here was a tense situation ! The unhappy prisoners would not agree ! The only remedy was to put them both in the same case, where they they might be left to argue out the matter.

Cotta was of the opinion that the accused should be put in the case labelled ACC : but Labienus preferred the one marked DAT : as he thought it would be more suitable 'for the prisoners.'

"Very well, I am persuaded," said Cotta, in a passive voice (the old chap was feeling too tired to argue.) "At any rate I am not the first person," he added, somewhat paradoxically, "I am not the first person to yield to your imperative mood."

This remark apparently incensed Labienus. Seizing the unhappy little man he dropped him head first into the case marked GEN :

"The form of Cotta," he explained to the soldiers who stood by, "goes quite readily into that case."
 J.B.E.A.

FOOTBALL.

The beginning of the football season is always an anxious time for those who are interested in the building up of the School XI. This year the task was a particularly difficult one, since of last year's colours only Foottit and Woodley remained, the latter not being available during the first half of the term. However we were fortunate in having both of last year's full backs still with us, and their sound defence proved a great asset to a team whose powers of attack were never great.

It was perhaps unfortunate that we met our strongest opponents, with the exception of Mr. Donkin's XI., in the first two matches of the term. But it is significant of the improvement which took place in the team, that in the return match with Leighton Park we turned the tables, and finished the season strongly with a victory over Oxford High School.

The chief weakness of the team lay in its back-bone, the half-back line. Many experiments were tried, but none proved an unqualified success, although Miles played well in this position with plenty of dash, a quality in which the team as a whole was somewhat lacking. Perhaps it would not be amiss here to point out that a half-back should cultivate offensive no less than defensive play. He must pay attention as much to the quality as the quantity of his passes, by passing the ball along the ground instead of kicking it into the air.

The forward line shewed very little combination until the last few matches, when it was rearranged with good results. Prior to this, either inability or disinclination to advance in its proper formation

at anything but a painfully slow rate, had reduced it to a state of impotence. Fortunately for the future it has improved considerably in this respect.

The 2nd XI have not met with much success this season, and have displayed weakness in the same departments of the game as the 1st XI. They are a young team, however, and if keen will improve rapidly. At full-back, Hancock has played consistently well.

FIRST ELEVEN MATCHES.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School :—Played at Reading on Sept. 27.

The match was played too early in the season, before the raw material which constituted most of the team had had time to be moulded into shape. The forwards, with the possible exception of Ellis, were particularly weak. At half time the score was 3—0, which was increased, partly owing to the fact that our goalkeeper was hurt, to 9—0 against us during the second half. The team was as follows :—Goal, J. F. Sinclair ; backs, R. L. C. Foottit, C. R. Davidge ; halves, W. H. Stevens, A. W. Miles, H. S. D. Stiles ; forwards, W. E. Legge, W. J. Smith, W. E. Steele, H. A. Steele, C. Ellis.

A.S.F.C. v. Abingdon Town under 18 XI :—Played on the home ground on Sept. 30th. In this match again the School were badly beaten by a superior team. Although Shallard played well in goal, we very much missed the greater height and reach of Sinclair. The final score was 12—1 against us, Miles scoring our solitary goal.

The team was as follows :—Goal, S. W. D. Shallard ; backs, R. L. C. Foottit, C. R. Davidge ; halves, W. H. Stevens, A. W. Miles, W. G. Hancock ; forwards, H. J. Prince, W. J. Smith, W. E. Steele, R. Taylor, C. Ellis.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School. Played at Oxford on Oct. 14.

During the fortnight which elapsed between this and the previous match the School team found its feet, and succeeded in beating Magdalen by 1 goal to nil. Smith headed the ball in from a nice centre by Ellis, towards the beginning of the second half. Davidge and Sinclair showed their best form.

The team was as before, except that Prince was transferred to right half and Salisbury filled his place. C. R. Wright displaced Taylor at inside right.

A.S.F.C. v. Lincoln College. Played at Abingdon on Oct. 18th. The first half was very even and no goals were scored. In the second half, however, the School showed their superiority and scored

twice, Salisbury putting in an excellent shot from the wing. Miles supplied the other goal by a run through. The defence succeeded in preventing our opponents scoring. The team was greatly strengthened by the inclusion of Mr. Alston as centre half, Miles playing centre forward. W. E. Steele replaced Wright at inside right.

A.S.F.C. v. Oxford High School.—Played at Oxford on Oct. 25th. The team had lost something of its form and was rather out-classed. The score at half time was 1—0 against us, and during the second half Oxford High School added three more to their score, while our forwards failed to break through their defence. The half line was rather weak. The team was the same as that against Magdalen College School.

A.S.F.C. v. King Alfred's School, Wantage.—Played at Wantage on Nov. 8. The school made a promising start, for Smith scored in the first ten minutes, and maintained their lead until half time. In the second half the game was more even, and our opponents scored once, leaving the game drawn, one all. The half line, with the exception of Miles, again showed noticeable weakness. A. W. Staniland occupied the left half position, displacing Stevens, otherwise the team was unchanged.

A.S.F.C. v. Lincoln College.—Played at Oxford on Nov. 11. It was unfortunate for the school that Davidge was unable to play owing to a strained leg, and still more unfortunate that Mr. Alston had a previous engagement. The forwards, however, showed a marked improvement, but the defence was very much weakened, and Lincoln scored 8 goals to our 4. Of these Steele contributed 3 and Smith 1. W. H. Stevens took the place of Davidge as right back, otherwise the team was unaltered.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School.—Played on the home ground on Nov. 15. This was the first match in which C. C. Woodley was able to play for the school. The game was characterized by a lack of combination among the forwards and weakness in the defence, owing to the fact that two halves, Miles and Fox, were partly disabled. These facts led to a disappointing loss by 3 goals to 0. C. C. Woodley displaced Steele as centre forward, and J. S. Fox played right half in the place of Prince.

A.S.F.C. v. H. A. L. Donkin's XI.—Played at Abingdon on Nov. 18. Unfortunately Mr. Donkin picked a team much too good for anything the school could produce. The opposing forwards were too fast for the backs on the slippery ground, and the shooting was too good for the goalkeeper.

At half time the score was 4—0 and by the end of the game, 11—1 against the school. Woodley scored our solitary goal by kicking the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands into the net. G. W. Salisbury played right half in the place of Fox, who was unable to play, and the outside left position was filled by R. G. Spencer.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School.—Played at Abingdon on Nov. 22. This was one of the most successful matches of the season. The School started well, Smith and Spencer scoring early in the first half. The score stood at 2—0 in our favour at half time. During the second half Woodley increased the school lead to 3, but just before the end, the Leighton forwards, who had been kept well away from our goal up to that time, scored twice from centres in quick succession. Finally the School won by the odd goal in five. A few changes were made in the team. Salisbury moved up from right half to right wing, while his place was taken by W. E. Steele. C. Ellis replaced C. R. Wright at inside right.

A.S.F.C. v. King Alfred's School, Wantage.—Played at Abingdon on Nov. 25. The team was disappointing after the form shown the previous Wednesday. In the first half the forwards scored three times, Woodley 2, Smith 1, but the defence was uncertain and Wantage equalized soon after half time. From this point the attack was very ragged, and although the ball was constantly in the enemy's half, the forwards failed to score. On the other hand, just before the end, Wantage ran through, and converted the draw into a win for them. The team was the same as in the previous match.

A.S.F.C. v. Oxford High School.—Played on the School ground on Nov. 29. The School team once more found its form, and Woodley scored twice within the first quarter of an hour. Nothing more was done that half, and the score stood at 2—0 at half-time. During the second half the opposing forwards scored once, but the School failed to increase their lead. Better combination in the forward line was noticeable. Smith being absent, C. Ellis took the inside left place, while C. R. Wright filled the other inside position. Otherwise the team remained as before.

A.S.F.C. v. O.A.F.C.—The match between the School and the Old Boys was played on Sat. Dec. 9th. Happily it kept fine for the game and, as all were kept busy, none of the players noticed the cold. A larger crowd than usual watched the game, which was full of excitement from start to finish. Unluckily R. L. C. Footitt, our able captain

and C. C. Woodley were away, their places being filled by W. G. Hancock and R. Taylor. C. R. Davidge acted as captain. W. Robinson, O.A. had his place filled by P. E. Rowlandson for the Old Boys. Soon after the start the school scored a goal. This was followed by a run of goals for the Old Boys. In the second half, the school, encouraged by the onlookers, scored their other two goals. The result was :—School, 3 goals ; Old Boys, 7 goals. The following represented the school :—J. F. Sinclair, goal ; W. G. Hancock, C. R. Davidge, backs ; W. E. Staniland, A. W. Miles, W. E. Steele, half-backs ; R. G. Spencer, R. Taylor, C. Ellis, C. R. Wright, G. W. Salisbury, forwards. The following represented the Old Boys :—J. Knowles, captain, goal ; S. L. Buckle, G. T. Eason, backs ; N. A. Carr, R. E. Eason, P. E. Rowlandson, half backs ; R. B. H. Morland, L. H. Cresswell, H. A. L. Donkin, H. V. Stone, I. Williams, forwards.

SECOND ELEVEN MATCHES.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School.—Played on the School ground on September 27th. The match resulted in a very easy win for our opponents. During the first few minutes they ran through and scored twice, and although our backs played a good game, our opponents shot four more goals before the end. The team consisted of the following :—Goal, S. W. D. Shallard ; backs, H. S. Bartlett, W. G. Hancock ; halves, G. S. Sturrock, J. S. Fox, A. D. Prince ; forwards, H. D. Shallard, R. G. Spencer, C. R. Wright, R. Taylor, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School :—Played at Abingdon on Oct. 14. The result was a draw, 0—0. The hot sun tended to make the game uncomfortable and rather slow. In the first half Snell nearly scored from the right wing and the play was livened up considerably towards the end of the game, but to no purpose. The following represented the School :—S. W. D. Shallard, W. G. Hancock, H. S. Bartlett, A. W. Staniland, J. S. Fox, H. D. S. Stiles, R. W. Snell, H. A. Steele, J. Ballard, R. G. Spencer, W. E. Legge.

A.S.F.C. v. Oxford High School.—Played at Abingdon on Oct. 25th. The School started well and soon scored. Our opponents then pressed and scored three goals in quick succession before half-time. During the second half the School scored twice and our opponents once, the match ending in a defeat for us by 3 goals to 4. Legge 2 and Taylor scored for the School. Team :—S. W. D. Shallard, W. G. Hancock, H. A. Steele, H. D. S. Stiles, J. S. Fox, A. W. Staniland, H. D. Shallard, W. E. Legge, R. Taylor, J. Ballard, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. King Alfred's School, Wantage.—Played at Abingdon on Nov. 8. A well contested game ending in a win for King Alfred's School by 6 to 3. Our goals were scored by Bartlett, Snell and Taylor. The following represented the School:—J. M. Wheeler, H. A. Steele, W. G. Hancock, W. H. Stevens, J. S. Fox, H. D. S. Stiles, R. G. Spencer, H. S. Bartlett, R. Taylor, J. Ballard, R. W. Snell.

A.S.F.C. v. Magdalen College School.—Played at Oxford on Nov. 15. We ought not to have lost this match. The score at half-time was 2—1 in our favour, the result of good shots by R. Taylor and W. E. Steele. Magdalen however added two goals in the second half without our scoring again. The following represented the School:—S. W. D. Shallard, W. G. Hancock, H. A. Steele, W. E. Steele, W. H. Stevens, A. D. Prince, R. W. Snell, J. Ballard, R. Taylor, W. E. Legge, R. G. Spencer.

A.S.F.C. v. Leighton Park School.—Played at Reading on Nov. 22nd. Lost. Our opponents, who were pressing most of the time, scored three goals against us in either half. Our team was as follows: S. W. D. Shallard, W. G. Hancock, H. A. Steele, A. D. Prince, W. H. Stevens, H. D. S. Stiles, R. Snell, C. R. Wright, R. Taylor, W. E. Legge, and H. D. Shallard.

A.S.F.C. v. King Alfred's School, Wantage.—Played at Wantage on Nov. 25th. Lost. Owing to frost the night before the ground was hard and fast. Two goals were scored against us in either half. Except for the substitution of H. S. Bartlett for H. D. Shallard, the team was the same as in the previous match.

A.S.F.C. v. Oxford High School.—Played at Oxford on 29th Nov. Our opponents won easily by 10—2. Legge and Ballard scored for us in the second half. Team as before, except that H. D. Shallard resumed his place vice H. S. Bartlett, and Ballard took the place of Wright, who was playing for the 1st XI.

" UNDER 15 " MATCHES.

A.S.F.C. v. New College School.—Played at Oxford on Nov. 4th. The School had undoubtedly the best of the game but lost by the only goal scored. The forwards were very slow and refused to shoot, keeping the ball too much on the wings. The team was as follows:—Goal, J. M. Wheeler; backs, G. Estcourt, W. G. Hancock; halves, A. M. Garton, H. A. Steele, K. Aldridge; forwards, H. S. Bartlett, E. M. Holbrook, W. D. Shallard, N. C. Wood, H. J. K. Genders.

A.S.F.C. v. Abingdon and District Elementary Schools.—Played on the home ground, Nov. 11. The game was fast and even up to half-time, when the score stood at 2 all. The Shallard brothers were responsible for our goals. In the second half, however, the forward line went to pieces, and 3 more goals were scored against us. The team was as before, except that H. S. Bartlett was replaced by H. D. Shallard, and E. Tinegate played in goal in the place of J. M. Wheeler.

A.S.F.C. v. Oxford High School.—Played at Abingdon on Dec. 2nd and resulted in a draw of one goal all. The team was much improved since the last match. Our goal was scored by Aldridge. H. S. Bartlett resumed his place as outside left, and H. D. Shallard displaced E. Tinegate in goal. H. Insley played right half, and K. Aldridge on the left.

CHARACTERS OF THE ELEVEN.

J. F. Sinclair, Colours 1922, Goalkeeper. Has shown a great improvement over last year's form. Picks up the ball cleanly and clears well. Possesses a good and reliable kick, but should learn to punch. Will be extremely useful next year.

C. R. Davidge, Colours 1922, Right Back. Has played consistently well throughout the season. Is particularly quick with his feet in intercepting passes. Has a strong kick with his right foot, but should learn to make more use of his left. Makes good use of his height and weight.

R. L. C. Footitt, (captain) Colours 1921-22, Left Back. A tower of strength to the side. Has improved considerably since last year and plays with vigour and determination, though his left foot kicking is still weak. Has discharged the many duties of captain ably and efficiently.

A. W. Staniland, Left Half. Came into the team late, but has done very creditably. Is rather slow, and should learn to give more support to his forwards. However, he tackles quite well and has a good kick with both feet.

A. W. Miles, Colours 1922, Centre Half. A keen and hard working player, dribbles well and gives good passes to his forwards, but is erratic in kicking a bouncing ball. Uses his head well and tackles surely.

W. E. Steele, Right Half. Gave some promise as a forward at the beginning of the season, but is much too slow. Must learn not to waste time by useless dribbling. As a half, shows a tendency to cling to the ball too long, but works well and tackles in a determined manner.

R. G. Spencer, Outside Left. Works hard but is extremely erratic. Should develop a better kick with his left foot and learn to centre earlier. However, he possesses a turn of speed and shoots well on occasions.

W. J. Smith, Inside Left. Quite a tricky player who has borne his share of the goal scoring. He is handicapped however by his lack of pace. His failure to combine well with either the outside or the centre forward is due equally to his tendency to hang back too much, and to his persistency in keeping the ball. Is useful with his head, and a hard worker.

C. C. Woodley, Colours 1921-22, Centre-forward. Has added great life and dash to the forward line by his own energetic play. Is very fast and has a good control over the ball. It is very much to be regretted that he will only be able to play for the last half of next season.

C. Ellis, Colours 1922, Inside Right. Played for the greater part of the season as outside right. Centres very well, but leaves this rather late. Dribbles well without wasting time and is quite fast for his size. Has not been quite so successful in the inside position. Uses his head to advantage.

G. W. Salisbury. Outside Right. For the first half of the season he played on the other wing. He also leaves centring too late. Kicks well with either foot, but is rather slow and has not enough weight for tackling. Is useful with his head.

C. R. Wright. Inside right. Plays a plucky game, but is much handicapped by extreme minuteness. Dribbles and passes well, but has an unfortunate genius for putting the ball over the bar from any range. Must learn to use his head better and kick with his left foot. Should be very useful in future years.

APPRENTICESHIP IN THE MERCHANT SERVICE.

(EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER.)

S.S. Port Darwin,
Melbourne.
June 6th, 1922.

There are four apprentices aboard. We all live in one room. If we all want to get dressed at the same time, two have to get into their bunks until the other two have finished, for there is not room for four to dress at once.

We serve four years' apprenticeship, and then sit for our second mate's exam. During our apprenticeship we do the same work as the crew.

The senior gets the job from the Chief Officer every morning, and there is plenty of work to do. We have various names—"Necessary Evils," "Necessary Nuisances," and the like; for if any of the work is done wrong, you may be sure that it was the apprentices who did that piece.

A lot of fellows, when they first come to sea, are under the impression that they are going to walk about in uniform all day. They get a rude awakening when the Chief Officer tells them to get into dungarees and follow him! We get various jobs. It would take me too long to write them all down, but they chiefly consist of chipping, painting, and washing paintwork. One voyage we left Norfolk (Virginia) homeward bound with about fifty tons of coal on deck. We had to shift it into the bunkers in the pouring rain with the spray coming over us all the time. On another voyage we left the same port with a full cargo of coal (10,300 tons, which we loaded in forty-eight hours) for Alexandria. We helped to clean up the holds ready for meat, which we loaded in New Zealand for home. Three holds are insulated for refrigerated cargo, and two other holds are for general cargo. We usually take general cargo to Australia and New Zealand, and load meat, butter, cheese, wool and general cargo there for England. Sometimes we take cargo to New York, and then load up there for Australasia.

A voyage usually lasts about six months. The only trouble is that we don't get many letters. They usually arrive in a port just after we leave and follow us round all the voyage, and we finally get them when we are in London. Some letters are over a year old when we receive them, covered in post-marks, and addresses written on the back of the envelopes for want of space on the front.

It is a free and easy life, all the same: plenty of hard work and some good sport ashore.

FRANCIS B. GLENNY.

THE FAIRS AND MARKETS OF MEDIÆVAL ABINGDON.

• BY ARTHUR E. PRESTON, F.S.A.

It has been reserved to the present generation to witness the final stages in the gradual decay of many an old-time fair in country towns, and under their eyes decay is passing or in some cases has already passed into extinction. Abingdon is no exception, and perhaps illustrates the process of degeneration more than other neighbouring places, because owing to various causes it possessed in

bygone days more fairs than any of the towns in Berks. The chief of these causes was no doubt the presence of its great abbey for something over eight centuries. At the moment the subject of fairs is of some interest, as the talk has again been revived of abolishing or removing from the centre of the town the only remaining fair—the Michaelmas Fair—that still exhibits any signs of vitality. This too has so far suffered the common fate as to have lost its first significance, and has dwindled into a mere aggregation of inferior diversions that barely pass muster as a pleasure fair in the minds even of the “unhardened youth” of the district. As an institution it has long ceased to serve any public purpose worth preserving. A fair or franchise in the legal sense it never was, as will be seen when its origin comes to be traced out: in common with all similar “statute or hiring fairs” it can be shewn historically to be the direct outcome of the labour conditions that prevailed in this country after the Black Death of 1349—the most depopulating pestilence of an age that knew not cleanliness or sanitation. But more of this later.

In point of time markets were in existence long before fairs, and in the beginnings of our social history there was no privilege more sought after or more highly valued than the possession of a market. Wallingford is specifically mentioned in the Domesday Survey as having a market, and it was only owing to the pretensions of the men of that town in the time of Henry I. to suppress the markets of near rivals that any record of the early beginnings of Abingdon market has been preserved. Dry as the details may seem to be they are worth a little study as illustrating the living story of the growth of English commerce. Between rival centres of trade in the centuries following the Conquest the antagonism was acute and persistent. The first step of the attackers was to challenge in the courts of law both the Abbot Vincent’s right to the lordship of the Hundred of Hormer, and his right to a market at Abingdon. They based their case not on the customary ground of damage from proximity, but on the unusual ground that it was no ancient market at all—or that if it were it was only for the sale of bread and beer. Thereupon as a preliminary the officials of the crown forfeited the whole abbey into the King’s hands. Instantly driven to action the abbot hastened to Court and laid before the royal Justiciars evidence of the grant of a fair to Abingdon in the days before the Conquest, by producing the Confessor’s charter. By the King’s order it was read aloud to the assembled barons by the Bishop of Salisbury.

Although the text of this grant has not come down to us we may conclude that it was no mere invention of the monks, as in the subsequent litigation extending over nearly two generations the right of the abbey to its ancient market was narrowly examined and finally established.

Nothing is said in Domesday about a market at Abingdon or indeed about the vill or town of Abingdon at all, by name; it was classed as part of “the barton” or sort of home farm of the abbey. But the existence of a market can be inferred from the reference contained in the Survey to “ten traders before the door of the church.” At that time the incipient Abingdon may be pictured as little more than a collection of wooden thatched huts with two or three corn mills, and one or perhaps two small churches—the fore-runners of the present St. Helen and St. Nicholas. Four other churches or chapels sprung up in later days but have all disappeared. The inhabitants, few in number, were mostly serfs of the abbey and their occupations mainly connected with agriculture. The large open space fronting the monastery and forming the heart and public centre of the place was called “the bury”—an old English appellation equivalent to “borough.” Here the markets were held on Sunday, the then usual day. At first Wallingford held its market on Saturdays, afterwards altered to Sunday, and it was probably on the change being made that the competition of Abingdon was felt and steps commenced for putting it down. The first Wallingford lawsuit cost the abbey 300 marks of silver in the form of a bribe or present to the King to get a decision in their favour. And the money could only be found by breaking up and stripping off the gold and silver from a sculptured reredos over the high altar, representing the Virgin and Apostles, made and presented to the abbey church by the saintly Ethelwold himself. The churchmen of old were often workers skilled with their hands as well as their heads, as witness the great Dunstan, and Spearhavo the abbot of Abingdon 1047-50. The sacrifice of one of their most precious ornaments and the great price the monks were willing to pay gives the measure of their desire to maintain their market privileges.

The charter granted by Henry I. about 1124 and confirmed by Stephen about 1146 enabled the abbey to enjoy for a season their market rights in peace till shortly after the accession of Henry II. when the struggle broke out afresh. The Wallingford aggressors were on this occasion reinforced by the men of Oxford, a sure sign that the obnoxious

market at Abingdon was a dangerous and successful competitor. Immediately after the King's departure for Normandy in August 1158 the turbulent Wallingfordians took the high-handed step of marching to Abingdon on a certain Sunday, accompanied by the constable of the royal castle there, and attempted by force to stop the market. The men of Abingdon did not however tamely submit to this, and as the chronicler puts it, drove their adversaries "with unexpected valour out of the town and put them to shame." Without recounting all the various moves and counter-moves on either side, it may be sufficient to say that a trial before thirty-four aged men of the county at Farnborough resulted in a decision that Abingdon possessed full market rights. This decision was impeached on the ground that some of the jurors were connected with the abbey, and a new trial was ordered at Oxford. This again proved abortive as the jurors could not agree on their verdict and the dispute was eventually terminated in a somewhat dramatic fashion. The chief Justiciar (the Earl of Leicester), who had presided at the trial, went to the King at Salisbury about February 1163 and gave his personal testimony that being brought up at Abingdon abbey as a boy in the time of King William he had in fact seen the market in full swing there. Modern commentators have raised doubts as to whether the Earl were even born at the alleged date, but it suffices for present purposes that the King, who had good opportunity of knowing, accepted and acted on the evidence. Even this did not put an end to the importunities of the men of Wallingford. For when the King was at Reading in April following, they made a further attempt to re-open the judgment by representing that if the market at Abingdon were allowed to continue they would be unable to perform their feudal services of rent etc. due to the King. But enraged at their persistence and refusing to be intimidated the King "roughly drove them from his presence." So at length the litigation ended and from that time onwards the right of the abbot to a full weekly market was never questioned by outsiders. The trouble that arose from within the abbot's own borders came later. Freed from outside opposition at home the abbot's status in other markets was improved by Henry II. who confirmed and strengthened the privileges of the abbey to buy and sell in any of the markets of the kingdom free of toll and without let or hindrance of any kind. Theoretically a concession of this kind could only extend to such markets as were in the King's own hands, and not

granted away to religious houses or other mesne lords. But in practice it was effectual as the doughty abbot Sampson found out when he put the question to the test with the merchants of London at his market of St. Edmundsbury a few years later. The attack on the Hundred failed as completely as the attack on the market. There is nothing to shew whether the objections raised were seriously pressed, but during the progress of the quarrel the abbot Walkelin obtained from Henry II. confirmation of all his rights as lord of the Hundred of Hormer—a tract of country stretching over the north-eastern angle of the county from Abingdon to the Thames at Oxford as its apex, and embracing all the villages within the area.

The idea of Sunday markets seems strange in modern days but under the Norman régime it was not repugnant to national feeling, and was not viewed with disfavour either by the Church or the State. In fact the grant of a market to the abbot and monks of Eynsham between 1135 and 1140 expressly directed it to be held on Sunday in each week. But as time went on public sentiment changed, and an attempt was made by the Statute of Westminster in 1285 to prevent desecration by forbidding the holding of markets or fairs in churchyards, or within the precincts of churches. But so difficult was it found to eradicate an ancient custom that the Statute only gradually took effect, and it lingered on in some places till at least the end of the 16th century. At Abingdon the practice could never have prevailed, because except for a brief period at the end of the 14th century there were no churchyards annexed to the parish churches. Saving perhaps a small private burial ground attached to St. Edmund's chapel, the cemetery within the walls of the abbey was the only place of burial for the town of Abingdon and district. There would have been no markets there—only in the open space outside the abbey gate.

The year 1449 saw the principle carried further by an Act against markets or fairs being held on Sundays, or on certain specified saints' days. Owing perhaps to its being under monastic jurisdiction Abingdon had acted long in advance of this legislation, and must have changed the market day to Monday soon after the Statute of 1285. At all events from a commission of *Oyer and Terminer* issued in 1328 we know that the market was then being held on Mondays.

On turning to consider the old fairs of Abingdon they will be found to present features of greater complexity than the markets but possibly of more interest. At the fall of the abbey in

1538 there were five annual fairs in existence irrespective of the Michaelmas fair, which was neither a fair nor a market but a popular gathering drawn together for a special purpose. Two extra fairs added by James I. in 1610 will receive mention in due course. These five fairs were held on the eve, day, and morrow of the following feasts :—

St. Edmund (Ock Street Fair) 9 June.
 St. Margaret 13 July.
 St. Mary (Broad Street Fair) 8 Sept.
 St. Andrew (Vineyard Fair) 30 Nov.

Lent Fair—first Monday in Lent (one day only).

On the alteration of the Calendar in 1752 the dates of all these fairs except the Lent fair were put forward by eleven days—a change that preserved their relation to the Seasons, but obscured their connection with the Saints.

Except for the fair of St. Andrew which arose in special circumstances and was a relatively late creation, all the other fairs had formerly belonged to the abbey and may be assigned to the 12th or 13th centuries. It is a presumption amounting almost to certainty that the first of these in order of time was the fair on the Nativity of the B.V.M. the patron saint of the abbey and known as *St. Mary's fair*. For the origin of this and all other abbey fairs, except one, we must look rather to the periodic gatherings of pious worshippers at the shrines of the saints than to any royal grants. Traders in the villages were unknown, and all buying and selling was centred in the towns. Unobserved the element of commerce crept into and associated itself with these religious assemblies, and in quite a natural and ordinary way the foundations of fairs began to be laid. The festival and the fair soon went on together hand in hand. The monks improved the occasion by taking toll from both sides, and supported by the fiction of a lost grant the custom hardened into a right which became of great value and consequence to religious houses in the Middle Ages.

At the feast of St. Mary great concourses of people were accustomed to come to the town, as the Abbey Chronicles testify, special provision being made for the relatives of monks to be honourably received and suitably entertained at the expense of the abbot and convent. The visitors were to be fed in the town or in the courtyard of the abbey, and their horses and other means of transport were not to be overlooked. All this had more to do with the fair than the religious festival. So thronged was the

great abbey church that the Sacrist was directed to disregard the established rule by which strangers were not allowed to sit or stand in positions where they could see the monks or be seen by them. Mutual curiosity was on this one occasion to be gratified.

The *Lent fair* and the fair of *St. Margaret* never reached any great importance and require little comment. After the dissolution of the abbey one of the first acts of the newly created Corporation of Abingdon was to make an order, in April 1557, that St. Margaret's fair should be kept in the places commonly used "savinge that the horse markette shal be kepte in Borestrete and the Brodestrete." The latter was an innovation, and sufficiently indicates that the fair was divided and for all other purposes except horses was kept in the central part of the town on the Bury. It was waning however, and by 1741 had ceased to be mentioned as an existing fair; it had no doubt become extinct. The Lent fair in name still drags on a precarious existence, but for all practical purposes has died out.

St. Edmund's is the only case amongst the abbey fairs where the precise date of commencement is known. It arose in connection with a chapel built shortly before 1288 by Edmund Earl of Cornwall, first cousin to the King, in honour of an Abingdon man, Edmund Rich, Archbishop of Canterbury then lately canonized for the piety of his life and good works. The chapel was built over the spot where the saint was supposed to have been born in a lane off West St. Helen Street, and stood on a plot of ground 88 feet long by 60 feet wide. By later additions the plot became of the extent of about an acre. In the summer of 1288 the abbot, Richard of Hendred, entered into a covenant with the Earl to find two priests (monks or seculars at his choice) to celebrate service daily, and also to maintain the chapel in good order for ever without any charge to the Earl or his heirs "unless out of special charity they should wish to bestow something." This new burden was a serious anxiety to the next abbot, Nicholas of Culham, who immediately began to debate in what way contribution could be obtained towards expenses that the unwisdom of his predecessor had unnecessarily undertaken. The device hit upon was a new fair; and the abbot succeeded in obtaining from Edward I. in 1290 the grant of a fair to be held at the chapel on the eve, feast and morrow of the Translation of the saint and five days after. In the light of after events the procurement of this fair was an error of the first magnitude, and

may be taken as the proximate cause of all the violence and disturbances that afflicted the abbey during the next three quarters of a century.

St. Andrew's fair never belonged to the abbey, and came into being in 1520 from circumstances quite unconnected with its concerns. For a couple of months in the spring of 1518 Henry VIII. and his court found an asylum at Abingdon from the plague then devastating London. The Queen was also there and Wolsey paid occasional visits. It was no doubt at this time that the Abingdon youth, John Mason, then one of the abbey scholars at Oxford first came under the King's notice, and afterwards passed into his service and filled many important positions abroad. The monastic system was already doomed and Abingdon in common with all other abbeys was waning in public esteem and popularity. From the events going on around him the abbot, Thomas Pentecoste was fully conscious of this, and may be discerned from various circumstances to have moulded his actions accordingly.

The guild of the townspeople carrying on the benevolent work of almshouses and bridges was gaining in public favour but their finances were in a strained condition. The King's presence offered a chance of relief and it no doubt occurred to the Mayotts and the Bostocks and other leaders of the Fraternity to apply for the grant of a fair in aid of their objects. But fairs as money-makers were getting played out. The abbot, an easy-going man and the last of his line (dimly foreseeing the possible course of events), said nothing in opposition, and the prayer of the townfolk was acceded to. The fair was not actually granted till getting on for two years later but its financial results hardly came up to expectation. It was nowhere mentioned amongst the scheduled property of the Fraternity on their abolition in 1547, and was presumably worth nothing. Although stated in the official survey of the Court of Augmentations 1554 to have been transferred to the newly constituted Christ's Hospital the fair never found its way into their charter. Probably it was *damnosa haereditas* and they did not want it. It was more trouble to collect the tolls than they were worth. Finally the fair was bundled in amongst the franchises granted to the new Borough by the charter of 1556. As the Vineyard or Paddle Fair it has always had a struggling existence, unless for a spell of good fortune about the middle of the 18th century, and to-day except in name it has come to an end.

(To be continued.)

ECLECTA.

MODERN HISTORY.

The New learning. Young men had been on the crusades they had found New books written in Greek which they read. They soon began to doubt whether you could really buy everlasting life from the Pope.

The New learning begun a long time ago when nearly nobody new nothing about the reading or writing of manuscripts until some learned Greek wrote on some reeds.

"The Saxon plough boy grubbed deep into the ground with his clumsy plough, he ate the pork he got from it."

"The English that came over to Britain were really Frenchmen."

Walter Tyler a poor man led the pheasants in 'The Pheasant Revolt.'

ANCIENT OR NATURAL HISTORY.

"The first man was made from monkey."

"An unclean spirit is a person who does not wash his hands."

"At the beging of the world there was no men or women but people were very like big monkeys."

CHARIVARIA.

We have just received a set of wireless.

Three cheers for Signor 'Meccano!'

What fun to draw diagrams in our 'theatrical' note book!

Some say that a barometer is a kind of thermometer for telling 'wether' the 'whether' is fine or not. They neglect to describe the instrument carefully, but it could, of course, hardly be a 'clerical' thermometer.

The 'caricatures' of the football team appear with this number. Several members have 'investigated' in coloured caps, sashes and ties.

The lower field is still somewhat 'inundating,' but will be levelled off in time.

An old friend has invented some 'Oxygen powders' containing Oxygen [$\frac{1}{3}$ th of the Earths crust] and the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ th.

We are glad to say that only one 'Communionist' won a seat in Parliament.

R.G.S.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHRONICLES
OF ASUHAVERD THE SCRIBE.

And it came to pass in the first year of Foot the king, the son of Foot, that the men of the house of Tu perceived that their walls, even the walls of their abode, were far gone in decay, yea even unto the destruction and the crumbling thereof. Wherefore, while it yet crumbled, it seemed good to Wink, one of the king's mighty men, governor of the land of Uperdorm, to make new the edifice of his dwelling place. And while yet this contriving was fresh in him, he made communication thereof to his trusted friend and companion Sink, known to certain of baser mind as 'Kat.' (For in the realm of the great and mighty Foot there be many low persons who scorn not to put a man nobler than they to derision). Then thus spake Wink, "O trusted peer, companion of my fruitier days, dost perceive this rebuke which our house has brought upon us, yea, the shame wherewith our neighbours shame us, a very reproach upon our fair fame?" Then Sink, looking round about him, saw the desolation of his habitation, how it decayed, and perceiving these things he wept right sore. Then Wink waxed wroth and laid bare his plan and Sink was filled with joy, and praised him in all things, and they twain drew up a petition, and their request was granted right readily.

But when the news was noised abroad, loud and long were the scoffings, and bitter were the jeers of their neighbours. But they with steadfast purpose did toil unceasing. And when now the work was well-nigh sped, a foul stench arose from off the walls, such as had not arisen since the days of Nacarr, in the land of Phor. Wherefore their neighbours did revile them, and with no pleasant curses did they curse the house of Tu. But dismayed not a whit were Wink and his companion and in but a short span the stench went its way back to its home, and their glory was as the glory of the Sun, unequalled throughout the land. Long Live Foot, the King, and his henchman Wink!

J. F. S.

IMPRESSIONS AT MOULSFORD.

(With apologies to O.U.B.C.)

At 1 p.m. on a sultry Saturday in December we embarked in the local chairplane, that is to say 17 of the elect and 2 masters, 20 including the driver. All the passengers carried their own provisions, and there was a slight burst of cheering

by a few solitary boys, who gazed upon us with eager eyes.

There was little merriment until we reached the city of Clifton Hampden, for the noise of the engine (not a Ford) was drowned by the steady champ of 19 mouths, eagerly devouring doorstep sandwiches. When passing through the above mentioned city someone saw a gipsy lady driving a chariot, and the kind hearted fellow daintily offered her a sandwich. I am afraid she was badly brought up for she shook her fist, and her language was not Parliamentary.

Eventually we arrived at the Weetle and Bedge Hotel, after successfully stopping Strreck, who desperately tried to go to his Home at Moultsford. We then walked for several leagues along the drive by the river Thames, rescuing a whale which had been caught in the undergrowth near the bank. When we got half-way to the winning post somebody shouted that the crews were coming round the bend. We ran: but alas it was all in vain, for a barge with four people rowing came in sight.

We then succeeded in getting within 200 yds. of the winning post and saw two long troughs with eight people in pyjamas armed with clothes props, and another with a clothes line, sitting in each. They had evidently been learning their alphabet, for one had got as far as A and the other as far as B. Then came two boats with engines, and some men, one with a cat's fur round his collar. The troughs came back after an hour or so, and the boys in them looked rather tired, although they splashed the water with their clothes props, and neither had learnt any more of the alphabet, not even half of it. They stopped at the lock and somebody said "B" boat had won; I suppose it was because they were leading in the alphabet.

We then walked back to the Hotel and got on board the chairplane. One of our party found it rather tiring wearing his shoes, so we removed one, but he didn't seem to like it and hit us. We had the same trouble with Strreck on the way home, and Wrght preferred the floor to the seat.

There was no more noise, everybody being otherwise engaged in rescuing his teeth, which had become fouled by a Barnett's Best Black.

K. T. W.

OXFORD LETTER.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Yet two more have come from 'alma mater' to swell our numbers at THE University, but only

one of these has gone to that College with which we are all familiar—and he plays chess. The other has entrusted his learning to “Wuggins.”

At Pembroke C. V. Davidge has stroked the Coxwainless Four while E. O. Hills rowed with length and vigour in the Senior Clinkers. Both of the above—so rumour says—are studying Law, and indeed we ourself have seen them rather near the Law Courts.

At Trinity we are no less ably represented. R. E. Eason has stroked the Trinity Coxwainless Four to the final race, and he again rowed at Moultsford, this year at “4” in “A” crew. He is said to take his stand on History—and yet we wonder . . .

Of our latest members there is little to say. J. Harding is devoting himself to research in chess, while W. Memory has been seen in a “Tub,” but over that we will draw a veil.

More there is but we dare not divulge it. It but remains, Sir, to assure you that we are all upholding the O.A. tradition of work, and truly from our haggard looks you would not but admit that we have been ‘up late.’

May we wish yourself, Sir, and your readers a very pleasant Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

We are, dear Mr. Editor, yours
O. A.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

May I ask your readers to settle a most difficult point for me? The trouble is this: some time ago Pa told me that he had decided that I should go to Oxford or Cambridge, if I could get a scholarship. At first I did not like the idea at all, but everybody seemed so certain that it would be a splendid thing for me that I gradually got resigned to it. Anyhow, when the time comes, the decision will rest with me. I am to go to a university only if I get a scholarship. If I like, I can always fail to get one. So I don't worry about it. However, I expect I shall try to pass the examination. I should like to go into business and make my fortune straight away, but it can easily wait for an extra four years or so. Besides I was more than half won over by reading the following obituary notice in a newspaper a few weeks ago:—“He was not only a successful man of business; he was also a man of considerable academic distinction.” I should be quite willing, when the time comes, for my obituary notice to read in the same way. It sounds well. I would always sacrifice swank to money, if it were necessary, but

why not try to have both? It is just as well to aim high.

However, to come to the cause of my perplexity, if I do try to get a scholarship, to which of the two sister universities am I to go? Pa says he would prefer Oxford because he has found on enquiry that there is a better social tone there. It was an old Oxford man who told him. One of the masters at the school, however, strongly advises me to try for Cambridge, where, he says, the scholarship is perhaps a little sounder. He happens to be an old Cambridge man himself.

That sir, is the whole case, and I request the unprejudiced among your readers to tell me which university I am to choose.

I beg to remain, sir,
Yours sincerely,
Benjamin Binks.

O.A. NOTES.

BIRTHS.

ALDWINCKLE.—On September 13, at Shippon Manor, Abingdon, to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Aldwinckle, a son.

BATE-PRESTON.—On May 27, at “Whitefield,” Londiani, Kenya Colony, to Capt. and Mrs. Wheeler Bate-Preston, a son.

LEWIS.—At Clifton, Bristol, in May, to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Allin Lewis, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DAVIES—PREWETT.—On July 1, in London. E. C. Davies to Irene Muriel Prewett, of 46 Oseney Crescent, Camden Road, London.

EDEY—LEUTHARD.—On September 6, by licence before the Chelsea Registrar, F. H. Edey to Elsé Leuthard, of Lausanne, Switzerland.

EDWARDS—WILLCOX.—On July 29, at All Saints Church, King's Heath, Birmingham, by the Rev. H. S. Watts (Vicar), A. L. Edwards to Kathleen Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Willcox, of King's Heath.

DEATHS.

BALLARD.—On September 2, at his residence, Bath Street, Abingdon, Frederick William Ballard, aged 63.

FISHER.—On November 7, at 1, Denmark Villas, Caldecott Road, Abingdon, Russell George Fisher, only son of Alfred and Florence E. Fisher, aged 22.

LUCAS.—On November 9, at Southbourne, Bournemouth, Donald George Lucas, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lucas, and formerly of 18, Swinburne Road, Abingdon, aged 17.

TOWNSEND.—On August 19, at Chiswick, Frederick Octavius, son of the late John Matthew Townsend, late of Oriel House, Abingdon, aged 51.

YOUNG.—On September 29, Herbert Young, husband of Helena Young, of "Arnprior," Montpelier Road, Ealing, W.

By the death of Herbert Young the school loses a staunch and practical supporter. A boy at the School in the "sixties," in Dr. Strange's time, he proceeded to Queen's College, Oxford, with an open scholarship in Mathematics. Here he did equally well, and graduated with First Class Honours. Mindful of his old School and all that he felt he owed to it, he rendered the School his debtor in return by his generous gift in 1894 of £500 to found an entrance scholarship. It is from this sum, supplemented by the munificence of the Rev. Edgar Summers, that our annual "Young and Summers scholarships" are derived. Herbert Young was also a constant and generous donor of school prizes, especially for Mathematics, and a very liberal subscriber to our building funds. He was a keen and skillful amateur photographer, and on one occasion, in March 1910, lectured to the School on "Touraine and its Chateaux," showing some beautiful lantern slides made from his own photographs.

F. W. Ballard was a native of Abingdon, where he was well known and very highly respected. He entered the School as a boy in Jan. 1871, and devoted himself subsequently to the old family business of the Phoenix Iron Works, of which he was the Head.

F. O. Townsend came to the School as a boy in May 1882, and distinguished himself as an athlete. Leaving in 1889 he took up Law as his profession, passing his finals in 1894. He has seldom been seen at school gatherings in recent years, but in his younger days both at rowing and athletics he represented Past & Present in many consecutive meetings, his High Jump of 5ft. 1½ ins. wherewith he tied with P. L. Deacon in 1898, standing as a record for the School ground until beaten by R. G. Rice in 1907. For several years he did useful work on the Committee of the O.A.C.

R. G. Fisher and D. G. Lucas were at the School so recently that many who are still among us will mourn their deaths as a personal loss. The School is poorer for the loss of two most promising *alumni*, and we take this opportunity of recording our deep sympathy with their parents and relatives.

A book by James Townsend, on "The Oxfordshire Dashwoods," has been printed for private circulation at the University Press, Oxford.

We have read with much pleasure two poems by O. J. Couldrey, published in the September number of the *London Mercury*.

When in the early part of last August the members of the Berkshire Archaeological Society made a two-days' excursion to Abingdon, the task of piloting and instructing the party devolved principally upon three prominent O.A.s. These were James Townsend, who gave a summary of local history, H. G. W. D'Almaine, F.S.A., who entertained the visitors with an account of the Abingdon Grandmaces, and A. E. Preston, F.S.A., who acted as guide at the Almshouses and the Abbey Ruins, and gave an interesting address on the subject of the recent excavations.

Captain T. Malcolm Layng M.C. of the Indian Army is at present home from India on leave. At the time of writing he is staying in Oxford and has paid a visit to Abingdon. We hope to see more of him before he returns to his duties in May. We note that his Regiment was the one selected as escort to the Prince of Wales in Delhi.

Roger Haywood, who has also been in England and has been seen in Abingdon, has now returned to Calcutta.

Norman Hooke has returned to Ottawa after a flying visit to Abingdon.

Congratulations to P. L. Howard on passing last July the Final Examination for H. M. Assistant Inspectors of Taxes. He is now eligible for a commission under the Treasury.

Congratulations likewise to H. P. Tame, who has passed, at an exceptionally early age, the Final Examination of the Institution of Civil Engineers. At the oral examination he was specially commended by Mr. J. Wemyss Anderson, M.Eng. of Liverpool University, on the excellent draughtsmanship of his plans. It will be three years, however, before Tame is considered old enough to use his qualification, and to write after his name the mystic letters A.M.I.C.E.

Congratulations again to O. B. Challenor, who has been elected to the Town Council at a Bye Election on Dec. 6th, the vacancy being caused by the promotion of A. W. Morland to the Aldermanic Bench.

O.A.s. will be proud to learn that S. L. Buckle has been awarded the Vellum Certificate of the Royal Humane Society for saving, at great personal risk, a spent swimmer from drowning at Clacton on Sea last summer.

R. E. Eason has again been rowing at Moulsoford in the Oxford Trial Eights. This year he occupied No. 4 thwart in the "A" Boat, which was beaten

in the race by two-and-a-half lengths. Earlier in the term he had stroked the Trinity boat in the "Fours," and brought his crew successfully through to the Finals, when they were beaten by B.N.C. Since the "Trials" Eason has rowed at No. 2 in the Varsity Boat.

C. V. Davidge was again given a place in the "Trials" at the start of practice.

C. M. Humfrey has now completed two years' work with the British Thomson-Houston Engineering Company at Rugby. He finds the work interesting and has passed all necessary exams with credit.

T. P. R. Layng was articled in October to a firm of solicitors in Tunbridge Wells.

We were glad to notice in a recent issue of *Popular Wireless Weekly* a photograph by W. G. Sherratt of a Wireless Receiving set, which he has constructed at his home in Cowes.

R. J. Weaving is schoolmastering at Sedbergh.

L. A. Lewis is a journalist on the staff of *The Ironmonger* at Bristol. We congratulate him and Mrs. Lewis upon the birth of a daughter.

W. Memory and J. Harding have gone into residence at Oxford, at Worcester College and Pembroke College respectively.

C. E. H. Dolphin is now at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He did well last term to secure the thirtieth place among well over a hundred successful candidates for entrance.

G. M. G. McFarlane is a student at Culham Training College for Teachers.

G. E. Lay is a clerk in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

I. Williams is acting as secretary to his father at Newport in the Isle of Wight.

N. A. Carr is likewise helping his father in business at Leamington.

P. E. Rowlandson, is about to take a clerkship in the Imperial Bank of India in London.

R. C. W. Waterhouse has secured a job with the Persian Oil Company.

H. S. Tickle is learning farming at his home in Leamington.

SCHOOL NOTES.

VALETE.

VI. Form.—W. Memory (1918.) School Prefect, 1920; Head of School, 1921; 2nd XI. Football 1918; O.S.L., 1918; H.S.C. (Classics), 1921—22; School Librarian, 1920; Corpl. O.T.C., 1921.

I. Williams, (1915.) School Prefect, 1920; Head of House, 1921; 1st XI. Cricket 1920; Colours

1921; 1st XI. Football 1920; Colours 1920; Captain 1921; 1st IV. Rowing 1922; Colours 1922; Athletic Colours 1920; O.S.L. 1922; Sergt. O.T.C. 1921.

C. E. H. Dolphin (1916.)—School Prefect 1921; 1st XI. Cricket 1919; Colours 1920; Captain 1921—22; 1st XI. Football 1920; Colours 1921; Athletic Colours 1921; O.S.L. 1919; S.C. 1920; Sergt. O.T.C. 1921.

P. E. Rowlandson (1919.)—School Prefect 1921; S.C. 1920; O.S.L. 1st. Class (distinctions in Latin and History) 1922.

J. Harding (1918.)—School Prefect, 1921; 2nd XI. Cricket, 1921; 2nd XI. Football, 1921; O.S.L., 1919; H.S.C. (Classics), 1921—22; Pembroke Scholarship, 1922.

N. A. Carr (1919.)—School Prefect, 1922; 1st XI. Cricket, 1921; Colours, 1922; 1st XI. Football, 1920; Colours, 1921; 1st IV. Rowing, 1921; Colours, 1921; Athletic Colours, 1920.

VA Form.—G.M.G. McFarlane (1919.)—School Prefect, 1921; 1st XI. Cricket, 1921; Colours 1921; 1st XI. Football, 1919; Colours, 1921; O.S.L., 1922; L. Corpl. O.T.C., 1921.

G. E. Lay (1918.)—O.S.L., 1922.

VB Form.—R. C. W. Waterhouse (1918.)—1st XI. Cricket, 1920; Colours, 1922; 1st XI Football, 1921;

H. S. Tickle (1921).

Remove Form.—K. Howes (1917.)

III. Form.—K. A. Lay (1919.) A. B. C. Jenkins (1921.)

II. Form.—D. Howes (1920.) E. W. King (1922.)

SALVETE.

VB. Form.—P. H. Barwell, S. E. Clarke, F. G. H. Allen.

Remove Form.—W. G. Cullum, R. B. Masterman-Wood, O. T. M. Rayment, C. Hall, R. M. Hodgson, H. M. Insley, B. V. Edsall, G. R. D. Estcourt.

III. Form.—K. C. Bradbury, R. N. Trye, S. Brown, L. D. Hutchison, F. Dymond, J. G. W. Randall, H. W. Stone, A. E. Belcher, W. E. U. Udall, A. M. Garton, J. M. Wheeler, K. R. Savage, A. J. Dean.

II. Form.—A. B. Blackmore, P. Lane, A. T. Hatfield, L. A. Woodhouse, W. S. Hale.

The results of the July examinations were as follows:—*Oxford Higher School Certificate*, in Group I. (classics), J. Harding and W. Memory, with exemption from Responsions. *Oxford Senior Locals*, First Class Honours, Division I., J. F. Sinclair and R. G. Spencer: Division II, R. L. C.

Foottit and P. E. Rowlandson. Second Class Honours, Division I., K. T. Wood : Division II., C. R. Wright. Third Class Honours, G. W. Salisbury and G. S. Sturrock. Passed, B. W. L. Buckland, C. Ellis, G. E. Lay, G. M. G. McFarlane, A. W. Miles, S. W. D. Shallard, R. W. Snell, A. W. Staniland, W. H. Stevens, H. S. D. Stiles, T. A. Wiggins and I. Williams. Distinctions were gained by P. E. Rowlandson, in History ; J. F. Sinclair in Religious knowledge ; P. E. Rowlandson, J. F. Sinclair, R. G. Spencer and C. R. Wright in Latin ; J. F. Sinclair and R. G. Spencer in Greek ; R. L. C. Foottit in Higher Mathematics.

R. L. C. Foottit is Head of the School this term, and the other Prefects are G. S. Sturrock, R. G. Spencer, K. T. Wood, W. H. Stevens, H. S. D. Stiles, J. F. Sinclair, and A. F. James.

R. L. C. Foottit is Captain of Football and R. G. Spencer is Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Football Colours have been awarded to C. R. Davidge, A. W. Miles, C. Ellis and J. F. Sinclair.

The "Abingdonian" Committee consists of the following :—Mr. Ross Barker (Editor), R. L. C. Foottit, A. F. James, G. S. Sturrock, R. G. Spencer, K. T. Wood, and J. F. Sinclair.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries :—*The Aldenhamian*, *The Aluredian*, *The Bloxhamist* (2), *The Chigwellian*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Liverpool College Magazine*, *The Log of the Nautical College*, *Pangbourne*, *The Monktonian*, *The O. H. S. Magazine*.

The following boys were confirmed at St. Helen's Church by the Bishop of Buckingham on Wednesday evening, 6th December :—K. L. Aldridge, F. G. H. Allen, D. M. Brown, J. B. O. Durell, C. F. Fisher, W. G. Hancock, J. H. Hooke, P. G. A. Kennington, I. T. Leon, J. K. Leon, S. W. D. Shallard, J. F. Sinclair, K. C. Smith, C. Stacey, G. S. Sturrock.

A collection was made in Chapel at morning service on Dec. 6th in aid of the starving refugees from Asia Minor. A sum of £9 12s. was raised, and this has been forwarded to Corfu to Mr. A. E. P. Sloman, who is a member of the relief committee.

The following attended the Duke of York's Camp at Littlestone-on-Sea at the beginning of last holiday :—W. Memory, I. Williams, J. Harding and G. M. G. McFarlane.

The sudden death on September 2 of Sir Francis Gore-Browne, K.C., will be regretted by many boys and others, who listened to the inspiring speech

which he made to us upon Founder's Day 1921, at the distribution of the prizes.

We note with regret the death in London on Dec. 8th of Mr. A. K. Loyd K.C., for many years (1895 to 1905 and again 1916 to 1918) M.P. for this Division of Berkshire, and therefore *ex officio* a member of our Governing Body. He gave away the prizes on Founder's Day in 1898, he was a regular donor of prizes at our athletic sports, but his practical interest in our welfare was shown more especially by his very generous contributions to our various Building Funds. In public affairs Mr. Loyd played an active and stirring part, and notably in work connected with the British Red Cross Society. He was 75 years old, and uncle to our present member.

News of Mr. A. S. Walker comes from Wooster, Ohio, U.S.A., where he holds a Professorship of Modern History in the College. He appears to like the life out there, and the people, who have given him a cordial welcome.

Our thanks are due to the Rev. W. N. Blakeney, late of Fitzharris, for the gift of a handsome cabinet of geological specimens, which has been placed in the Pembroke Room. The inscription reads :—"In Memory of the Most Reverend William Newcome D.D., a worthy pupil of this school and formerly Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland. Presented to Abingdon School by William Newcome Blakeney. September 19, 1922."

Useful collections of minerals have also been presented by I. Williams and W. G. Hancock. The labelling and classifying of these is at present occupying the leisure moments of our mineralogical experts.

The School Lodge has now been turned into a supplementary Boarding House, to afford sleeping and study room for ten extra boarders. Mr. Alston remains in charge, retaining two of the downstairs rooms.

A School Tuck shop has been started this term. It is open at stated times in the morning and afternoon, when Mr. A. Miles, assisted by the Prefects, dispenses duly authorized comestibles from behind a counter in the old pavilion.

Thirty-six boys have joined M. Gaultier's dancing class this term. A School Dance was given in the Gymnasium on Wednesday, Dec. 13, to which Miss Grundy had kindly invited numerous lady friends of the School.

Eleven boys have been learning boxing this term, under the instruction of Sergt.-Major Collins.

The Abingdon Literary and Debating Society has been revived this season, and several of the senior boys have attended the lectures and papers, which they have found both interesting and instructive.

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 11, members of the sixth Form attended a meeting in the Corn Exchange under the auspices of the local branch of The League of Nations Union. The speaker was Mr. A. T. Loyd, M.P., who gave a convincing statement of his reasons for supporting the League of Nations and his views as to the best method of doing so.

Fifteen boys, those who have taken an active part in School Rowing, with the Headmaster and Mr. Bevir, motored over to Moultsford on Saturday, Dec. 2, to witness the Oxford Trial Eights.

The annual School Concert will be given in the Gymnasium on Friday evening, Dec. 15, when the School Choir will again be supplemented by several kindly helpers from without.

The Rag Concert, for which we are ever more and more indebted to the unfailing kindness and energy of Mr. Ingham, will take place as usual on the last night of the term, Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Next term begins on Tuesday, Jan. 16, boarders returning on the previous day.