



THE TORCH-BEARER,

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THE SYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

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Editorial.

THIS is an era of retrospects. At the present moment, in speeches and in print, we are continually being asked to look back on the sixty years of our glorious Monarch's reign, and by more flippant pens and tongues, to contemplate the century during which the tall hat has reigned supreme as the head-gear of civilization. And as retrospects are in the air, we will spare the readers of "this weak and idle theme," and ask them, by a perusal of the following pages, to make their own retrospect of the history of a term of almost record brevity.

As to Her Majesty, we have already, with an historian's accuracy, paid her our homage as soon as the march of time proclaimed her reign longest, and we would fain that we could find new words in which to repeat the loyalty that inspired our September editorial. But loyalty is not a matter of words but of deeds, it wants more expression than the explosion of a bundle of sky rockets, or the fizz of a gigantic Catherine wheel, or the dropping fire of the mid-day cracker, so beloved of youth and so detested by nervous and irritable age. We are not then going to express our

loyalty in literary pyrotechnics ; we wish simply to impress on our readers that the younger they are, the greater the duty that lies upon them of remembering the occasion of the forthcoming national rejoicings, for the younger they are, the longer in all human probability they will live, and the longer they live the longer will be perpetuated the memory of the devotion with which a mighty Empire greeted a woman and a Queen.

Nay, if the sight of Sydney blazing with illuminations be not enough, then perhaps a scorched hand or a frizzled eyebrow may patiently be borne, as fixing more indelibly on the memory the greatness of the occasion. For among the many schemes that have been propounded as tending to impress on the youth of New South Wales the importance of the twenty-second of June, 1897, we have heard it suggested that a liberal use of the scholastic weapon of chastisement on that occasion would prove a transcendent aid to memory. We do not know how far this proposal has been considered by the authorities of this school ; we have no doubt that it has been as carefully debated as all other schemes for our welfare, bodily and mental, but as representatives of a very patriotic body of

youth, we venture to express the opinion that, even if the intervention of mid-winter holidays did not practically block the scheme, it would scarcely be a necessary measure to adopt with members of the Church of England Grammar School.

The Editor of a school magazine is, we feel, in a very responsible position. His duty is both to reflect and guide the public opinion of the school. But in the present instance he feels scarce called upon to guide, for he knows the loyalty is there, scarce called upon to reflect, for patriotism shines brightly enough without a reflector.

And so he lays down his pen and leans back in that coveted possession, the Editorial chair, and, prematurely aged with the weight of his responsibilities, finds words to meet his case in the noble poem with which George Peele greeted Elizabeth, herself, like Victoria, a woman and a Queen—

“ And when he saddest sits in homely cell,
He'll teach his swains this carol for a song :
‘ Blessed be the hearts that wish my sovereign
well,
Cursed be the souls that think her any
wrong !’
Goddess, allow this aged man his right,
To be your headsman now that was your
knight.”

Mr. E. G. Blackmore's Lecture on "Rowing."

THE School Hall was the scene of a social gathering of no mean order on Wednesday, May 26th, the attraction being a lecture by Mr. E. Blackmore, of Adelaide, a great enthusiast on rowing. He gave a most interesting and instructive lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, showing some of the finest crews racing, and in different positions while training, so by these and Mr. Blackmore's able explanations, we received some very useful hints. And besides these rowing pictures, there were some pretty scenes of English landscape and general views. He gave a brief outline of the history of Oxford rowing, and of the origin of the races between Oxford and Cambridge. Pictures were also shown illustrating the boats in which our great grandfathers rowed and also their mode of racing. There were, too, illustrations of rowing and boat racing at Radley and Eton, of the river at Oxford, of the lower reaches of the Thames, of the University crews and boats at their sheds and out on the river, of some of the most prominent coaches coaching the crews; sketches, too, of Iffley, Sandford, Nuneham, Abingdon, Wallingford, of the course from Putney to Mortlake, of the Torpid and May races at Oxford, of the Oxford and Cambridge eights on other parts of the Thames between the time of leaving home quarters and going to Putney, of the Oxford trial eights at Moulsoford, of the practice at Putney, of the Henley course during the regatta and at other times, and finally of the great 'Varsity race itself, which thousands assemble to

witness. Some very interesting pictures were those showing the crowds on the river before and after the University College races, and one thing certainly struck us as likely to prove of service in our harbour, the employment of barges moored along the banks, in place of rowing sheds. All these slides are beautifully tinted, and give a true reproduction of the actual scenery, the green margins of the river, the trees and every feature which adds such a charm to English landscape. There are also some illustrations of Magdalen Tower on May morning, showing the choir assembled to sing their Latin hymn, the favoured spectators on the tower itself, and the crowds in the street below.

We have to thank Mr. Blackmore very warmly for so delightful a presentation of the way in which one of our favourite sports is pursued in England.

During the evening the opportunity was taken to present the prizes won at the last Schools Regatta, this privilege falling to us as Head of the River for 1897. This duty was very kindly performed by Mrs. Armstrong, who was good enough to act for Mrs. Gould, who was prevented from being present.

Our own crew, of whom by the way we had a slide shown us, representing them in the middle of a course, were presented with the insigna of victory—the crew their oars, and the coxswain his rudder.

The Boat Club. CAMP.

THE Annual Camp took place as usual this year, but we had to go back to hotel life once more, since it was found to be impossible to get a suitable house or house boat, which latter would have been most to our liking. However, Mr. Cashman, of the Bay View Hotel, Gladesville, made us very comfortable, giving up to us the whole house (the bar of course excluded), and generally looking after our creature comforts well. We have to thank Mr. Betts for kindly giving us permission to use the Asylum baths, which, as long as the tide was favourable, were largely taken advantage of.

The monster tortoise received us with open mouth, as we made our way through the grounds to the baths, and was frequently rewarded for his courtesy by gifts of Moreton Bay figs, stones, etc.

Tubbing as usual took place in the morning, and after a substantial dinner, the main work of the training was done, consisting of four or five miles up or down the river.

This year, the race coming so soon after the holidays, the crew were in their racing boat the whole camp, and gave the second crew in one of the Tub Fours, and carrying the coach, plenty of graft to keep up to them.

Up till Thursday, when the crew rowed their first course, the clerk of the weather had been most kind, but on that day he failed us, and it stormed cats and dogs, blew great guns, and in fact was so boisterous, that good rowing was almost an impossibility. However, it gave the coaches an excellent opportunity of

judging the sitting and staying capacities of the crew, since they rowed in the teeth of the gale, and with the tide against them.

The Hon. A. J. Gould came up in the Government launch "Leila" with a party of ladies who are to be congratulated on their pluck in braving the elements. The crew went on board, and were regaled with tea after they had rowed the course in very fair time, considering the adverse circumstances alluded to above.

The following Saturday, a perfect rowing day, was fixed upon for a fast course, the Hon. A. J. Gould, a second time came to our help with the "Leila" for the coaching. The crew again acquitted themselves in a most satisfactory manner, and justified the opinions held by the coaches that they were a very fast lot.

We are indebted to Trevor-Jones and Branth Clarke for kindly giving us a hand in getting the boats back to our shed, which was accomplished successfully though it poured with rain, and the floating stage had sunk.

We missed our friends of the Sydney Grammar School this year, they having decided to camp at Ryde in order that the race should not be robbed of its interest by the crews seeing too much of each other's form so close to the race; next year we hope to be together again.

Our practice boats were housed at Dempsey's shed. We have to thank the Sydney Rowing Club for kindly allowing us the use of their shed for the light ship.

CHARACTERS OF CREW.

Bow : F. C. B. Bland.—Inclined to feather under water through turning wrists before dropping his hands, and so spoiling a hard finish ; inclined to let his slide go at times ; rowed well in the race.

(2.) E. K. Wilson.—Does not swing from his seat, but gets hold of the water very hard ; a bad habit of looking at his oar which makes him screw at times ; blade work good.

(3.) J. N. F. Armstrong (Captain B.C.)—A very powerful oar, much improved in shoulder work, finishes very hard. He must correct the bad habit of looking out of the boat.

Stroke : H. J. Gould.—Rather inclined to cock his oar when forward, but has a big swing, and is fast learning to get his hands away. Very hard worker, showed himself in the race a courageous and determined stroke.

Cox : H. S. Bland.—Can steer an excellent course, very attentive and painstaking.

A Fishing Party.

EASTER CAMP '97.

AFTER tea the Chief called for volunteers to help in supplying a dish of fish for the next day's breakfast. Half a dozen fellows jumped at the idea and were eager to start at once ; and lines having been supplied, the party set off attended by the good wishes of those who remained behind. On arriving at the boat, which, by the way, each individual member of the party, had determined to fill with fish, Dick Cox tripped over a periwinkle and was nearly swallowed by a hungry oyster. Then Irving got all but bogged in a jelly fish which had been carelessly left on the staging, and he was only rescued from his critical position by the united efforts of the whole party. At last all got safely aboard, and, with Jack and Hoppy at the oars, were making good progress when the latter set the ball a-rolling prematurely by catching a crab. Arrived at a likely spot the order was given to let go anchor, and Sim sprang to the bows, dropped the stone overboard in a hurry, and almost went in himself, and the rope ran out before the stone reached bottom, and disappeared beneath the waves. They gazed at each other in blank dismay till

Sleepy offered to lend his boot, which, with one of Irving's jokes laced carefully up inside, served the purpose of anchor admirably. Now real business began ; lines were prepared and hooks baited, and for the next ten minutes everyone in the boat was on the tiptoe of expectation. Then, one by one, the strain proved too much for their excited imaginations, and all but the watchful Sim slumbered peacefully. Suddenly a frightful yell of "Got him" from the watchful one aroused the sleepers from their dreams, and immediately all was excitement. Lines were deserted, and all crowded to the side at which the monster was expected to make his appearance. And when the excitement was at fever pitch the successful angler landed in their very midst, after much exertion, a catfish of some 4oz. in weight. This was the only catch, and an hour later the party returned cold and hungry to camp, supper, and bed.

PISCATOR.

[We insert the above with the hope that it will encourage others to follow "Piscator's" lead to give readers of the TORCH-BEARER the benefit of their experiences.—ED. TORCH-BEARER]

The N.S.W. Great Public Schools' Regatta.

THIS annual event took place on the Parramatta River on Saturday, May 1, and was from all points, except entries in the open events, a great success. The "Dawn," the "Lady Manning," and the "Birkenhead," as usual, followed the races. The "Lady Manning," owing to rival attractions, notably Hospital Saturday, was not so uncomfortably crowded as last year, though there were nearly 250 on board.

The first event was that for Junior Fours, only the S.U.B.C. and S.R.C. competing. The S.R.C. won by a length, and is therefore the holders for the year 1897-98 of the Yaralla Cup. In the losing crew Gould, an old S.C.E.G.S. boy, was rowing 3, and Pilcher and Fairfax, old S.G.S. boys, were rowing bow and str. respectively, and this lent some additional interest to the race. For the first half both crews were on even terms, then the S.R.C. began to draw away, and won fairly easily.

The next event was the Handicap Sculls, and four competitors appeared at the post. It was won by E. A. Pearson, S.R.C. (15sec.) by 10 lengths, from J. L. Bannister, N.S.R.C. (scr.), E. L. Lamont, S.R.C. (180sec.), being third.

Excitement now ran high, for the great event of the day was to take place, the Schools' Championship Race. The only two crews competing were the old rivals, S.G.S. and S.C.E.G.S. A good start was given, and at the word "Go" the S.C.E.

G.S., who had the northern position, caught the water first, and gained several yards in the first few strokes, but before a hundred yards had been passed both crews were level, and from this on, the race was most stubbornly contested, the crews passing and repassing each other more than once. At Tennyson the S.C.E.G.S. began to lead, and from this to the finish they gradually drew away and won by four lengths. A more even and stubbornly-contested race has never taken place between these two Schools, and the coaches of the losing, no less than the winning crew are to be congratulated on putting in a four of whom any school might be proud. The time was 8min. 7½sec., the record time for the Schools' Race over the course; the last mile was rowed in 6min. 22sec.

The Sydney Church of England Grammar School.—F. C. Bland, 9 st. (bow); E. K. Wilson, 11 st. 6 lbs. (2); J. N. F. Armstrong, 12 st. (3); H. J. Gould, 9 st. 12 lbs. (str.); H. S. Bland, 4 st. (cox.)

The Sydney Grammar School.—R. V. Spier, 10 st. 4 lbs. (bow); H. McKenzie, 10 st. 8 lbs. (2); H. A. Jones, 11 st. 7 lbs. (3); F. Craig, 10 st. 5 lbs. (str.); K. H. McRae, 4 st. 10 lbs. (cox.)

The last event on the programme was the Junior Eights, but this was only a walkover for the S.R.C., the only crew who faced the starter. The S.R.C. are therefore the holder of the Ladies' Challenge Plate for the year 1897-98.

Football.

IN reviewing the events of the football season up to the present, we certainly have not much to congratulate ourselves upon, though occasionally the team has shown what they might have done under more favourable conditions. In both of our matches in the Schools' Competition, we have been unsuccessful, being beaten by the Sydney Grammar School, on our own ground, by 18 points to 3, and by St. Joseph's College by the narrow margin of 3 to *nil*. In the S.G.S. match the team played as though they did not expect to win, and seemed discouraged by an unfortunate accident which befel Wilson just before the game began. In the St. Joseph's match they played up with much more spirit, and it was only the superior weight of their opponents which won the match.

The Newington match was most disappointing. We were hopelessly outclassed in every department of the game, the splendid passing and combined play of the Newington team completely nonplussing the School. In this match more than any other, we felt the need of three or four strong tacklers, such as Rundle, Gould, Wilson and White, and with these playing our opponent's large score of 38 would certainly have been considerably reduced.

In games against outside clubs, the School has generally been successful, the team as a rule playing with much more confidence when nothing in particular depended on the result.

Perhaps it may be as well to give some of the reasons why the team has not met with any great success this term. In the

first place we have had the misfortune, as in former years, to lose the services of some of our most prominent players through accidents in practice; Wilson I., Gould and Rundle being absent from several of our most important matches from this cause. The medical authorities, too, have been adverse, White and Levick being advised not to take any active part in the game this season. Further, our team is more than usually light this year, especially in the forwards, and they do not seem to have sufficient pace to make up for this deficiency. In nearly all our matches we have been overweighted in the team, and this has spoilt the back play, the forwards never being able to get the ball out properly. But the main reason seems to be in the fact that with a few exceptions the team has not been inspired with the enthusiasm and love of the game which is the first element of success.

As regards individual play the most consistent good work has been done by Armstrong, who in every match has shown up prominently on the line out and follow on, though in tackling he is still weak. Gould has shown himself a steady and hard-working centre forward, and about the surest tackler in the team, with the exception of Rundle, who unfortunately had the bad luck to have his nose broken in a practice match, and has thereby been incapacitated for the greater part of the term. Wilson I. promised to be a great help to the team, but had to retire before the S.G.S. match, owing to a sprained ankle. The rest of the forwards, though always working hard in the season, seemed to lack the

necessary dash in following on, Giblin, Rundle and Boyde doing occasional brilliant pieces of play.

Among the backs, Holdsworth and Kater, playing near the scrum, were under a disadvantage, having to act mostly on the defensive. Lyne, Bland, and Holtermann formed a strong three-quarter line, but in the School matches did not get much chance to show their scoring abilities. In handling the ball and kicking, the team generally was not up to the mark, with the exception of Lyne, Holtermann and Armstrong, who did remarkably well in this department of the game.

With regard to the Junior teams, perhaps the less said the better. In their matches against the other schools, they were hopelessly outclassed, both as regards weight and skill. The Second Fifteen averages very little over 9 stone, whereas the teams they had to contend against in the case of Newington and S.G.S., were nearly as heavy as the First Fifteens of their respective schools. A match was arranged for boys under 15 against St. Mark's Crescent, and a good game resulted in our defeat by 13 to 6. Forsyth II. scoring both tries for us.

C.E.G.S. v. Strathfield.—This, being our first match there was naturally some interest attached to the game, and a good many Old Boys rolled up, partly to see how the School Team was likely to shape during the coming season, but mainly in order to estimate their own chances of winning against the School on the following Saturday, when a team representing the Old Boys' Union was to try conclusions with us. The game was a most enjoyable one, being won by the School by 13 to 6. Most of the players were suffering from want of condition, still the game was fairly fast throughout. Bland scored two tries for the School and Abraham one, Armstrong kicking a fine goal from the field.

C.E.G.S. v. Old Boys.—Our annual match with the Old Boys took place on May 8th, a week after the boat-race, and after a close and enjoyable game, the Old Boys were victorious by 7 points to 3, a result almost entirely due to Gother Clarke's fine kicking, as within the first quarter-of-an-hour, he dropped a fine goal from the field out of the midst of the School forwards, and then from a free-kick for off side, he added the extra 3 points. After this the superior condition of the School began to tell, and during the last half the ball was chiefly on the Old Boys' side of half-way. Holtermann scored for the School, but Armstrong's kick failed. The new rules seemed to bother the players a good deal, especially the Old Boys, some of whom had not appeared on the football field for some time. Mr. Holme acted as referee. The game was watched by a number of ladies and Old Boys, who seemed well satisfied with the result.

C.E.G.S. v. St. Paul's College.—May 12th. The College brought over a rather strong team, including Corfe and Gregson of the University A's, besides several prominent members of their Second Fifteen. During the first five minutes the School seemed unable to rouse themselves, and Corfe scored a try and kicked a goal from the field in quick succession. After this the play became more even, and Bland scored for the School by a strong run up the line. Perkins, by a fast dodgy run secured next try for St. Paul's, the kick at goal being a failure. At half-time the score stood at 12 to 3 in favour of the visitors. Play being resumed, some splendid passing was shown by the College, Gregson, Hart and Corfe gaining a lot of ground, the two latter securing two more tries, from one of which Brown kicked a goal. The School, however, played up with more determination, and Bland and Abraham scored tries, both being converted into goals. The final scores were 20 to 13 against us. The game was a most enjoyable one throughout, Mr. Holme giving every satisfaction as umpire.

C.E.G.S. v. Technical College.—May 15th. Played on the School ground, and an interesting game resulted in a win for the School by 14 to 3. The game consisted of a series of loose scrums, neither side showing much attempt at combination. For the School Abraham scored twice, Lyne and Bland one each, and Armstrong kicked a goal from Bland's try. The visitors had not their best team, several of their men being engaged in the Junior Competition matches.

C.E.G.S. v. Sydney Grammar School.—On Wednesday, May 19th, we met our old rivals, the S.G.S. on the N.S. Reserve, and weakened as we were by the absence of Wilson (who had sprained his ankle about half-an-hour before the game began), Rundle handicapped by a recent injury to his nose, we succumbed rather easily to them by 18 points to 3. Our many misfortunes seemed to have taken the heart out of the team, as they failed in the most essential point of the game, energy and determination, and with a few exceptions did not seem to offer much serious resistance to the opposing forwards, who, it is only fair to state were much the busier. During the first half of the game the Grammar School had much the best of the game, running up 13 points to *nil*, but during the second half the School played up with a good deal more dash, and play was more even, the final scores being 18 to 3. The S.G.S. forwards being very much superior in weight, carried the scrum every time, enabling their back division to keep up the attack all through the match. For the Grammar School, Harris, Jones, Delohery and Brown were mainly responsible for the scoring, Brown's goal kicking being exceptionally fine. For the School, Lyne scored after some good passing by Holdsworth and Kater, Armstrong's kick at goal being a failure. Throughout the game Gould was always conspicuous for his safe tackling, and Rundle though at first showing some want of confidence, did his work as full-back very well, never failing to bring down his man. Among the forwards, Armstrong, Giblin and Rundle worked hard, the former being particularly good in the line out. Mr. Speight was referee.

C.E.G.S. v. St. Joseph's College.—This match took place at Hunter's Hill on May 29th, and a much closer match resulted than might have been expected, considering the superiority in weight of our opponents. We were considerably handicapped by the absence of White, Levick, Rundle I. and Wilson, I. owing to a variety of causes, chiefly the results of accidents in practice matches, and had they been able to play the result might have been different; as it was we were defeated by the narrow margin of 3 points to *nil*. It is only fair to state, however, that Allen of the St. Joseph's team was suffering from an injury to his foot, though this did not seem to interfere very much with his play. Armstrong won the toss, and St. Joseph's kicked off, the ball being returned out of bounds at half-way. Good work on the line out

was shown by Armstrong, C.E.G.S., and Gleeson, S.J. Several free kicks were awarded to the School for breaches of the "10-yds" rule, the St. Joseph's forwards being apparently too eager in following on. One of these within easy kicking distance was missed by Armstrong soon after the commencement of play. Some good tackling and punting was shown by both sides, particularly by the St. Joseph's back division. Several strong rushes by the St. J. forwards were stopped by Holtermann and Lyne, who relieved again and again by long kicks up the line. From a throw in at half-way, St. J. started a strong dribbling rush, which ended by going out in School territory, and it was gradually worked down to the School line, where from a broken scrum, Kelly picked up and fell across the line, this being the only score of the match. The kick at goal failed, and soon afterwards the whistle went for half-time, with the score 3 to *nil* in favour of St. Joseph's. On play being resumed a couple of strong runs by Allen, the heavy three-quarter, brought the ball down to the School 25, and the School were for a long time on the defensive, Holtermann's kicks out of touch and Parton's tackling preventing our opponents from crossing the line. On one or two occasions the ball was worked down to the St. Jos. 25, but the tackling of the home team proved too good, and play was once more transferred to our 25, where it remained for some time, the St. Joseph's backs making repeated efforts to score, but they were apparently over anxious to score, and fumbled a good deal. Just before time, Abraham following up a long kick by Holtermann looked like scoring, but the St. J. full-back was equal to the occasion. Bland put in a couple of good runs, but nothing resulted, and the whistle went shortly afterwards, leaving St. Joseph's the victors by 3 points to *nil*. The ball during the second half was very slippery, and fast play accordingly was rendered difficult. The most prominent players for St. Joseph's were Kelly, Gleeson, and Allen, while for the School, Armstrong among the forwards, and Holdsworth, Lyne and Holtermann among the backs were conspicuous, Holtermann in particular deserving a line of praise for his kicking out of touch and safe handling of the ball. Mr. Bode acted as referee, and gave the greatest satisfaction to both sides.

C.E.G.S. v. Strathfield.—Our second match with Strathfield was played on our ground on Thursday, 27th. There was an unfortunate delay

in beginning the match, several of the team being under examination till rather late in the afternoon, consequently the match was not finished till it was almost dark. Our opponents being short of men some of the Second Fifteen played as substitutes. The School won by 9 to 5, three tries to a goal from a try. Lyne's attempts at goal going wide. Bland was responsible for two of the tries after fine dodgy runs, Kater securing the other from a scrum on the Strathfield line. Hough, Davidson and Harriott played well for Strathfield; for the School, Bland, Lyne, Holtermann among the backs, and Armstrong in the forwards did most of the work.

C.E.G.S. v. Newington College.—Played on the Reserve on June 2nd. We were defeated by 38 points to *nil*, being altogether outclassed both in weight and skill. As in the Grammar School match, the team seemed to lose heart, and not following on the ball quickly enough, were unable to stop the fine passing of their opponents, who got the ball every time from the scrum, and Litchfield, playing a splendid game, repeatedly gave his wing men opportunities to score which they were not slow to avail themselves of. Armstrong won the toss from Litchfield and N.C. kicked off and took the ball to the School 25, where a free kick was awarded them for off-side, no goal resulting. From a scrum the ball was passed out to Maiden who kicked over the line, and C.E.G.S. forced. From the kick out play was taken to N.C. 25, but a fine passing rush between the N.C. backs, ended in scoring a try for Newington, which was converted by Maiden into a goal. From this out the School were continually on the defensive, and were unable to stop the fine passing rushes of the Newington backs, among whom Bowman, Litchfield and

Maiden were most conspicuous. Armstrong, Kater, Lyne, and Holtermann worked hard, but Newington continued to score rapidly, till at half-time the score stood at 19 to *nil* in their favour. Soon after play was re-started, Maiden scored for Newington, and a goal was kicked, and during the next 10 minutes our opponents scored two more tries from which no goals were kicked, the score standing at 30—0. Bowman, for Newington, running brilliantly, looked like scoring again, but was stopped by Lyne. Two more touches by Newington, from one of which a goal was kicked, brought the score to 38 to *nil*, when the whistle sounded no side. The School were outclassed at every point of the game, Newington having it all their own way from beginning to end. Our forwards lacked combination, and failed to get the ball out to the backs, and were slow in following on, these being points of the game in which our opponents showed to best advantage. For Newington College, Litchfield, as scrum-half, played his usual fine game, and was ably backed up by Bowman and Maiden, while among the forwards Fox and Baird were always prominent. For the School, Armstrong, as usual, shone out among the forwards, particularly in the line out, Murnin, Giblin, and Rundle occasionally doing good work. Among the backs, Holdsworth and Kater showed much improvement in tackling. Holtermann and Lyne also did good defensive work, repeatedly relieving by long kicks. The large number of points put up by our opponents would have been considerably reduced had Rundle, White, Gould, and Wilson, four of the best defensive players in the School, been able to take their old places in the field. Mr. Buchanan deserves the thanks of both teams for the satisfactory way in which he fulfilled the arduous duties of referee,

The Philosopher of the Bush.

(BY THE LATE A. M'CULLOCH HUGHES, B.A.)

Though the text's not in the Bible
Take a pen and score it down :
"God Almighty made the country,
But the Devil made the town."

Plant out London in Sahara,
In a twelvemonth it would fail,
Or drag on, a sorry tadpole—
Dropsied head, consumptive tail:

Cutting tracks to open back blocks,
Bridging streams without a name,
Paves the broad highway of glory—
Rears triumphal arch for fame.

'Tis the struggle with stern Nature
Stamps the hall-print on brave men,
And the plough cuts deeper landmarks
Than the scratch of office pen.

Less to make a barren sovereign
 Multiply its barren score,
 Than to raise one wheat-ear golden,
 Where bare desert howled before.

Less to found a lordly mansion
 On a speculative rush,
 Than to store one hole with water,
 Or reclaim one patch of bush.

Is the backbone of a nation
 Found in city smoke and din?
 Narrow-chested counterjumper,
 Lazy loafing larrikin?

Can our march in peaceful progress,
 Can our firm defence in war,
 Lie with the luxurious loungers
 Of the billiard-room and bar?

He's a MAN, whose sweat and labour
 Turn a wilderness to home;
 Had it lain with attic tenants,
 Little had been heard of Rome.

He's a MAN, whose toil's reflected
 In each field's familiar form;
 Not the rats that foul the vessel,
 To desert her in a storm.

He's a MAN, whose roots strike deepest
 In the soil whereon they grew;
 Not the city population,
 Ever shifting, ever new.

Lay to heart two grand bush maxims.
 (All the rest is pluck and push)—
 "Good wine needs no bush to boom it!"
 And "Don't beat about the bush!"

Value most true independence,
 Sure and golden are its gains;
 Honest work can beat prospecting,
 Taxed from other people's brains.

Bees can fill their hives with honey;
 And communities of ants
 Seem to pick a tidy living,
 Without *Parliament free grants*.

To the country! To the country!
 There there's room for millions more;
 When the land is fully conquered,
 We're a Nation;—not before!

Yes, a Nation, bold as eagle
 Soaring high on new-fledged wing,
 Strong, with strength of a young lion,
 Crouching close for first fierce spring.

And when Europe's forced to reckon
 With the Southern Hemisphere,
 Mind! Old England is our *granny*—
 Our own Motherland is here!

Old Boys' Union.

Notice of any change of address should be at once sent to the Hon. Secretaries of the Old Boys' Union, S.C.E.G.S.

Present members of the School are reminded of the following rule:—Boys in their last term at School may join the Union, but not be members till they have left.

The following changes of address has been notified:—

J. M. Walker, McPhail, via Dubbo.

J. B. Yeomans, Gilgoon, Brewarrina.

F. O. Day, Colonial Sugar Co., Rarawai Mills, Ba River, Fiji.

The annual re-union was held on Saturday, May 8th. In the afternoon, the football match Past v. Present took place on the School Ground, and resulted in a win for the Old Boys by 7 points to 3. A detailed account of the game will be found under School Football. The Old Boys were represented by the following:—
 Full Back: W. K. Dawson; Three-quarter Backs: G. R. C. Clarke, L.

Roseby, and C. M. Fetherstonhaugh; Half Backs: R. E. Herring, M. L. Clarke, W. H. Wilkinson; Forwards: R. Barton, M. Dawson, E. Heron, N. Trevor-Jones, J. W. Purves, S. N. Stevens, E. M. Sullivan (cpt.), H. N. Wilkinson, and C. H. Wilkinson. Afternoon tea was served in the School Hall, at which a good number of lady friends of the School was present.

In the evening, our first annual dinner was inaugurated at Quong Tart's Rooms, and proved a great success. Over fifty members were present, and this speaks well for the future of the Union, considering that there are only just one hundred on the roll, and these are scattered all over the colonies. The toasts were limited to "The Queen," "The School," and "The Chairman," proposed by the Headmaster, N. Trevor-Jones, and L. Roseby respectively. The toast of "The School" was responded to by H. W. Kendall, C. M. Fetherstonhaugh, A. H. Yarnold, and E. M. Sullivan.

After the tables were cleared, the annual meeting was held. This took some time, as there was a large amount of business to be got through, officers had to be elected for the ensuing year, and several rules amended and revised.

The annual report as printed, and the balance sheet as given below was read and adopted. The Rev. D. Davies then made reference to the death of Mr. Hughes, and to the fund raised on his behalf. A vote of thanks was unanimously voted to Miss Robson for her kindness in looking after the distribution of the fund. The amount subscribed was £23 15s., and out of this £13 lbs. 8d. was expended; it was resolved that "in the event of there being any surplus, it should

be kept as a nucleus to found a Provident Fund in connection with the Old Boys' Union; such fund to be used only in cases of absolute necessity."

After the business was completed, the rest of the evening was devoted to a Smoke Concert, but owing to the annual meeting being so prolonged, only a part of the programme arranged was gone through. The School Song and the Boating Song were sung in chorus. A pianoforte solo was given by C. M. Fetherstonhaugh, L. A. Baker sang "Father O'Flynn" with his usual success, S. N. Stevens gave a fine rendering of "The Flight of Ages," and A. J. Kely-nack chanted in the most approved style the sad and lamented "Death and Burial of Cock Robin." "God Save the Queen," brought a most successful re-union to a close.

The office bearers for the year are as follows:—

President—The Headmaster.

Vice-Presidents—G. H. Devonshire and H. W. Kendall.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—W. A. Bull and Rev. D. Davies.

Committee—R. Barton, G. R. C. Clarke, W. B. Clarke, M. Dawson, H. Ireland, N. Trevor-Jones, J. F. Fitzhardinge, G. A. More, H. N. Wilkinson.

The new rules and amendments are as follows:—

(a) That Rule X. read "The officers shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Hon. Secretaries, who shall also act as Treasurer, and nine ordinary members of Committee, of whom not less than two must be elected from those members who have been in attendance at the School within the previous three years—six to form a quorum,

- (b) That the annual re-union take the form of a dinner, to be held in Sydney, on a date and at a place to be fixed each year by the Committee.
- (c) That the annual subscription to the Union be five shillings, which shall cover Membership, TORCH-BEARER, and Prize Fund.
- (d) That the TORCH-BEARER be the official organ of the Union.
- (e) In all Old Boys' Matches against the School, the Old Boys' Team shall be captained by the last available captain of that branch of sport who has left the School, provided that he be a member of the Union.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge subscriptions for 1897-98 from the following:—W. J. S. Rundle, G. A. More, F. P. Hopkins, J. M. Walker, T. H. Dent, J. H. Wilson, G. R. Wilson, R. Moodie, W. J. Morson, D. Davies, O. W.

Gillam, A. Blake, J. B. Yeomans, J. F. Fitzhardinge, G. R. C. Clarke.

We congratulate H. W. Kendall on rowing in the winning boat in the Inter-University Contest, and G. A. More in getting his place in the University A Football Team.

T. S. L. Armstrong writes from Coon-goola, "Sport of any kind in this part of the world is practically nil, owing to the long continued drought, and this owing to the cold which has now set in, seems in all probability likely to continue. There are some people who think it is never cold in this part of Queensland, but let them camp out at night when the thermometer stands at about 30 deg. at sunrise, without a tent, and with only one blanket, and I think they will be quite satisfied with the fact that it is occasionally cold in Queensland."

The balance sheet was as follows:—

The Hon. Treasurer in a/c with the S.C.E.G.S. Old Boys' Union, 1896-7.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| Printing | £2 2 0 | Balance from last year ... | £4 15 0 |
| Prizes for Athletic Sports... | 1 10 0 | Subscriptions | 6 0 1 |
| Cups for Trial Fours | 3 5 0 | Prize Fund | 2 4 0 |
| Stamps, &c. | 1 16 11 | | |
| Advertisements & Sundries | 0 12 8 | | |
| Balance in hand | 3 12 6 | | |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | £12 19 1 | | £12 19 1 |

O. & E. O.

Examined and found correct,

G. R. C. CLARKE.

D. DAVIES, Hon. Treas.

Adopted May 8th, 1897.

ERNEST I. ROBSON, Chairman.

School Notes.

SUBSCRIBERS will note that this number of TORCH-BEARER is No. 1, vol. VII., instead of No. 2, vol. VI. Henceforth, the TORCH-BEARER volume will begin with the June number, so as to correspond with the Old Boys' Union Year, which starts on May 4th, the School Anniversary Day.

The examiners this term at the Annual Examinations are the Rev. E. Lampard, W. Newbery, Esq., and W. H. W. Nicholls, Esq.

We congratulate Abraham I. on running a great race in the Half-mile Handicap at the Sydney Harriers' Jubilee Meeting on May 24th. Abraham with a start of 45 yards, finished a good third. Levick too deserves our warmest congratulations on only being just beaten on the tape in his heat in a open 100 Yards Handicap at the same meeting.

The very successful and entertaining lecture on Rowing was given in the School Hall on Wednesday, May 26th, by E. G. Blackmore, Esq., of Adelaide.

Seventeen boys have entered the Junior Examination. Gould, who also entered, was unfortunately compelled to give up the examination through illness.

All, whether Past or Present, will be sorry to learn that Mr. Linton has been compelled by continued illness to take a six months' leave of absence. He left Sydney on the 27th of May in the Southern Cross, which is to go to Noumea, thence round the Horn to Buenos Ayres, and so to London. We wish, one and all, that complete rest, and the change of air and surroundings, will enable him to return to us next February fully restored to health.

We have also to announce that Mr. Devonshire is leaving us at the end of the term, his intention being to give up School work, and to return to the Legal Profession. He has done a great deal, not only for the C.E.G.S., but for the Schools Association, and it is greatly due to his efforts that the Annual Regatta has become such an important gathering of rowing enthusiasts, and friends of the Schools. We wish him every success at the Bar.

S.C.E.G.S. Calendar.

1897.

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| April 15 | Last Day of Term. |
| April 15 | Annual Rowing Camp at Gladesville. |
| April 26 | |
| April 26 | First Day of Term. No. on Roll, Boarders, 29; Day Boys, 88. |
| May 1 | G.P.S. Regatta. Schools' Championship won by S.C.E.G.S. |
| May 4 | Anniversary Day. |
| May 5 | 1st XV. v. Strathfield F.C. Won, 13 to 6. |
| May 8 | 1st XV. v. Old Boys. Lost, 3 to 7. |
| | Old Boys' Union Annual Meeting and First Annual Dinner. |
| May 12 | 1st XV. v. St. Paul's College. Lost, 20 to 13. |
| May 15 | 1st XV. v. Technical College. Won, 14 to 3. |
| May 19 | 1st XV. v. S.G.S. 1st. Lost, 18 to 3. |
| | 2nd XV. v. S.G.S. 2nd. Lost 6 to 0. |
| | Half Holiday, instead of Anniversary Day. |
| May 24 | Queen's Birthday. Whole Holiday. |
| May 26 | Lecture by E. G. Blackmore, Esq. in School Hall, on Rowing. |
| | Distribution of Prizes, won at the G.P.S. Regatta, by Mrs. Armstrong. |
| May 27 | Departure of Mr. Linton in the "Southern Cross." |
| | 1st XV. v. Strathfield. Won, 9 to 0. |
| May 29 | "Maiden" Saturday. |
| | 1st XV. v. St. Joseph's College. Lost, 3 to 0. |
| June 2 | 1st XV. v. Newington College I. Lost, 38 to 0. |
| | 2nd XV. v. Newington College II. Lost, 64 to 0. |
| June 2 | Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Christ Church. |
| June 7 | Junior Examination starts—17 candidates. |
| June 9 | Annual School Examinations start. Examiners—Rev. E. Lampard, W. H. H. Nicholls, Esq., and W. Newbery, Esq. |

The Editors of the TORCH-BEARER beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Magazines :—*Alma Mater, Aurora Australis, Bathurstian, Christ's College Register, Coerwill Magazine, Cinque Port, Droghedean, Fettesian, Geelong Quarterly, Hutchins' School Magazine, The King's School Magazine, Leodiensian, Melbournean, Newingtonian, Rossallian, Salopian, St. Peter's School Magazine, Syneian, Tonbridgian, Uhula, Uppingham School Magazine, Wanganui Collegian, Wellingtonian, Wesley College Chronicle, The C.G.S. The Sundial.*

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The TORCH-BEARER will in future be published Quarterly. * The Subscription is 2s. 6d. per annum, post free.

Communications for the next number of the TORCH-BEARER should be sent in before the end of August to "The Editors," S.C.E.G.S, North Sydney. Contributions should be written on *one side* of the paper only, and must be signed by the author as a guarantee of good faith and originality.