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SOUTHGATE
COUNTY SCHOOL
MAGAZINE
July 1911

A.G. Gollis.

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Southgate County School
Magazine . . .

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. . . Southgate . . .
County School Magazine.

JULY, 1911.

No. 3.

SCHOOL NOTES.

We have now reached the third number of our Magazine, and fully believe that it has been a success since its formation a year ago. Many thanks are due to all those who have contributed towards it during that time, but we should like members of every Form to send, in the future, a good number of contributions, instead of allowing all the work to come from the same Forms each term.

Many thanks are due to those Old Boys who have kindly contributed towards this number, and thus have shown that although they have ceased to be members of the School, they have not forgotten to take an interest in it. We hope that further contributions may be received from other old pupils, boys and girls, in the future.

The summer season brings with it many important outdoor events, amongst which figure the Athletic Sports, which were held successfully on Saturday, June 10th, the weather having suited the occasion admirably. A full account of the Sports is given later on.

This term, the VIth Form have been busy with examinations—the London Matriculation and Intermediate B.Sc. By the time

this Magazine appears they will have finished their labours, and are no doubt thinking of holidays. It is hoped, however, that our next issue will contain a good list of successes.

We are pleased to announce the success of E. R. Brown, who gained first place in the Point-to-point competition held by the Aero-models Association on May 13th of this year. Our readers no doubt recollect his very interesting essay on "The Conquest of the Air" in our first number, and may perhaps see him become a well-known aviator in the future. We shall be pleased to hear of any further successes.

We have now five pictures which the girls have won at the Sports :—

"June in the Austrian Tyrol," by MacWhirter.

"The Boyhood of Raleigh," by Millais.

"The Fighting Téméraire," by Turner.

"Portrait of a Son of Charles I." by Van Dyck.

"Sir Galahad," by G. T. Watts.

We hope to add to these each year.

We are sorry not to be able to print the numerous contributions sent in on the Coronation. Elsie Goldstone (IV B) had the good fortune to be in Westminster Abbey for the ceremony, and has written a careful and detailed account of it. But as most of our readers are probably satiated by this time with descriptions of the great day, we think that both her essay and her brother's account of his experiences at the Naval Review are of less interest than some of the other articles sent in. We are therefore keeping them back. Our thanks are due to both of them all the same.

As we were looking forward to the extra Coronation holidays, on Empire Day, May 24th, we worked quietly as usual. At

prayers, however, we sang, as an appropriate hymn, Kipling's beautiful verses called "Recessional," and, after this, two of the Prefects held up the new School Flag while we all joined loyally in "God Save the King." Some day we hope to have a flagstaff.

This term several expeditions into the Winchmore Hill Woods have been taken in connection with the afternoon Botany lessons, permission to enter the private parts having been kindly granted by Captain Taylor.

Mr. Parker has also taken the boys of the Second Forms for Nature Study rambles on Saturday mornings.

Two visits to Kew have been made by the Botany Classes, one on Saturday, July 1st, by some of the VIth Form, and another on Tuesday, July 11th, by the girls of VA and VB.

In many of the classes Field Work has also been done in Geography.

Gardens were allotted to the IIIrd Forms this term, and some good work has been done by several of the boys and girls. Without mentioning names, however, we may suggest that a little more energy in weeding and watering in plots to the south-west of the building would have produced even better results.

The School closes for the Summer vacation on Thursday, July 27th, and re-opens next term on Tuesday, September 19th. We wish all our readers very pleasant holidays.

* * *

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The School held the annual Athletic Sports on the School Ground, Fox Lane, on Saturday, 10th June. Besides the members of the School, there was a good attendance of parents and

Old Boys, and, owing to the fact that this athletic contest was the first in the School's history in which both boys and girls took part, the day's programme caused plenty of interest and excitement. The events contested by both boys and girls reached their usually high standard of keen competition, and a noteworthy feature of the programme was the strenuous effort made by the competitors in trying to gain the first place in the House Championships for both boys and girls. The prizes (except in the case of the Old Boys) were not for the individual competitors, but were awarded for House proficiency and merit.

The object of interest connected with the competitors in the boys' contests was the "Vivian Championship Cup," kindly given to the School by Dr. Vivian in 1910, when it was won by the Red House. A great effort was made by the members of the various Houses to secure this trophy for the coming year, and the competitors are to be congratulated on their keen display at the meeting. The Red House (ably captained by Brookes) were rewarded for their efforts by becoming the holders of the Cup for another year.

One of the interesting events of the day was the Old Boys' Half-mile Flat (open), for which first and second prizes were awarded. It is very gratifying that one of the first Old Boys of the School—P. Benda—secured the premier place, the second prize going to F. Marsh. It is to be hoped that the Old Boys' event will play a leading part in the future athletic contests of the School.

Much interest centred in the Long and High Jumps for both boys and girls, and the jumping was of an exceptionally good quality.

A Picture, subscribed for by the girls for the House (girls) gaining the greatest number of points, rewarded the keen efforts of the Red House, captained by Christine Thompson. To the House winners of the Team Race (girls) a Picture, subscribed for by the Mistresses, was awarded, and this trophy was gained by the Green House, captained by Myrtle Campbell.

At the conclusion of the day's programme the prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. Glyn-Jones, to whom Mr. Warren proposed a vote of thanks, which was carried in enthusiastic school-boy fashion.

Appended is a list of all the winners in the day's events :—

Tug-of-war.—First round : "Blacks" beat "Whites," "Blues" beat "Reds." Final : "Blacks" beat "Blues."

Jumping.—Final : Kathleen Clark, 1 ; Doris Pipe, 2.

Half-mile Flat (open).—Heat 1 : A. Brookes, 1 ; L. Boswood, 2 ; J. Holloway, 3. Heat 2 : D. Carr, 1 ; N. Day, 2 ; A. Souster, 3. Final : D. Carr, 1 ; A. Brookes, 2 ; J. Holloway, 3.

100 Yards Flat (under 13).—Final : C. Watts, 1 ; A. Newnham, 2 ; J. Wield, 3.

Quarter-mile Flat (open).—Heat 1 : W. G. Makins, 1 ; N. Day, 2 ; W. Hole, 3. Heat 2 : L. Boswood, 1 ; H. Williams, 2 ; A. A. Brookes, 3. Final : H. Williams, 1 ; A. Brookes, 2 ; W. Makins, 3.

Potato Race.—Finals : A—Hester Campbell, 1 ; Kathleen Finlayson, 2 ; Edith Forster, 3. B—Irene Woodrow, 1 ; Doris Amor, 2 ; Gladys Day, 3. C—Hilda Hawes, 1 ; Gladys Farrow, 2 ; Olive Evans, 3. D—Hattie Gould, 1 ; Dorothy Benn, 2 ; Muriel Lees, 3.

100 Yards Flat (under 14).—Final : L. Briggs, 1 ; F. Wall, 2 ; F. Goode, 3.

100 Yards Flat (over 14).—Heat 1 : F. Dixon, 1 ; W. Higgins, 2 ; W. G. Makins, 3. Heat 2 : A. Brookes, 1 ; N. Day, 2 ; J. Wallace, 3. Final : A. Brookes, 1 ; W. Wiggins, 2 ; N. Day, 3.

Sack Race.—Final : E. Addison, 1 ; C. Pattison, 2 ; W. Bolton, 3.

220 Yards Flat (open).—Heat 1 : A. Brookes, 1 ; H. Williams, 2 ; E. Marsh, 3. Heat 2 : L. Boswood, 1 ; A. Souster, 2 ; N. Day, 3. Final : L. Boswood, 1 ; H. Williams, 2 ; A. Souster, 3.

Flat Race.—Finals : A—Hester Campbell, 1 ; Myrtle Campbell, 2 ; Cissie Glyn-Jones, 3. B—Dora Day, 1 ; Dora Cogdale, 2 ; Doris Pipe, 3. C—Florence Crump, 1 ; Doris Sankey, 2 ; Gwendolen Brooke, 3. D—Sissie Nix, 1 ; Gwendolen Kipling, 2 ; Hilda Varley, 3. E—Elsie Cogdale, 1 ; Marjorie Haworth, 2 ; Ethel Mortimer, 3.

100 Yards Flat (open).—Heat 1 : L. Boswood, 1 ; N. Day,

2; W. G. Makins, 3. Heat 2: A. Brookes and W. Higgins, 1; E. Marsh, 3. Final: L. Boswood, 1; W. Higgins, 2; A. Brookes, 3.

Slow Bicycle.—Finals: A—Muriel Hammond, 1; Florence Forrow, 2; Doris Varley, 3. B—Dora Cogdale, 1; Sissie Nix, 2. C—Elsie Cogdale, 1; Dorothy Scott, 2; Ethel Macdonald, 3.

Long Jump.—Final: A. Brookes, 1; W. Eder, 2; W. Hole, 3.

Team Race (girls).—"Reds" beat "Whites," "Greens" beat "Blues." Final: "Greens" beat "Reds."

Team Race (boys, one lap).—"Whites," 1; "Blues," 2; "Blacks," 3; "Reds," 4.

Circular Skipping.—Final: Constance Taylor, 1; Daisy Keene, 2; Irene Woodrow, 3.

High Jump.—Final: A. Brookes and W. Eder, 1; D. Carr, 2.

Old Boys' Half-mile Flat (open).—P. Benda, 1; F. Marsh, 2; C. Duckworth, 3.

HON. SECS.

* * *

FOOTBALL NEWS.

Owing to the Magazine going to the press last term before the concluding stages of the Football season, several details of the season's football could not be dealt with, and so have been kept back for this issue.

In reviewing the School football since September, 1910, and considering the difficulties with which both elevens have had to contend, one must congratulate them on the successful season they have had. At the beginning of the season most of the previous year's team had left, and a very small nucleus for a 1st XI remained. A great many of the 1st XI to begin the

season were, one might say, "unknown quantities," and they had to face the same hard contests as in previous seasons of the School's football. Through their keen mid-week practices both elevens, throughout the season, were able to establish a record which compares very favourably with those of previous years. Indeed, in some instances the results have been most encouraging.

The match with the Tottenham County School XI at the beginning of the season found the School XI in its trial stage, with the result that the School XI had great difficulty in coping with superior forces. The games with Northern Polytechnic, St. Ignatius' College and Hornsey County School were very satisfactory, while the results of those with Enfield Grammar School and the Grocers' Company's School were very creditable indeed, when we recollect our past experiences with those teams. The Old Boys' matches produced some of the keenest football of the season, and, considering the good quality and experience of the members of the Old Boys' XI, the School XI is to be congratulated on getting such a good result and playing such a good game.

The 2nd XI has played steadily throughout the season, in spite of the numerous changes which have taken place from time to time, and it has proved a very valuable team in supplying reserves to the 1st XI, as it contains some very keen and able players who, it is hoped, will improve so as to find a position in the School Eleven.

The House matches were played with their usual keenness and esprit de corps, and, considering the difficulty in getting well-balanced teams for the respective Houses, the play in some of the matches was of a good order and was the means of discovering the more promising players.

At the end of the term "Caps" were awarded the under-mentioned boys who had played a prominent part in the School football :—Collis (captain), goalkeeper; Walker (vice-captain), centre-forward; Boswood, inside right; Carr, inside left; Pond, outside left; Marsh, outside right; Latham, right half; Souster, centre half; Allan i., left half; Dixon, left half; Fender, left back; Williams, right back; Brookes (captain 2nd XI).

"SPECTATOR."

CRICKET—SEASON 1911.

FIRST ELEVEN.

At the beginning of the term few thought the results of the 1st XI matches would have been so satisfactory, but judging from the results below, the members of the 1st XI have played as well as could be expected. Results : Played 5, won 3, lost 2. The results up to date are :—

May 13th.—School v. Tottenham County School.—This match was played at Tottenham, and resulted in a win for Tottenham County by 66 runs. In this game, through want of practice, we were outclassed, the highest scorers for the School being Boswood 13, Souster 15, while Dean of the other side made 45. Result : Tottenham County, 126 ; School, 60.

May 27th.—School v. Enfield Grammar School.—Played at Enfield, resulting in a win for the School by the narrow margin of 15 runs. The scorers for the School were Boswood 15 and Souster 10, while in bowling Carr took 4 wickets for 15 runs and Latham 4 wickets for 9. Result : School, 111 ; Enfield Grammar School, 96.

June 17.—School v. Tottenham County School.—Played on the School ground, Tottenham running out easy winners by an innings and 16 runs. Carr in the first innings tried hard to make a stand, batting well against clever bowling for his 11 runs. For the School, Fraser took 5 wickets for 20 runs and Boswood 3 for 10.

June 24th.—School v. Hornsey County School.—Played on the School ground, and resulted in a win for the School by an innings and 21 runs. For the School, Boswood batted well for his innings of 29 runs, while Carr and Souster contrived to get 12 and 10 respectively. Bowling for the School, Carr took 7 wickets for 15 runs and Latham 7 for 20.

July 1st.—School v. Old Boys.—This match provided the best game of the season so far. For the School, in his innings of 32, Souster batted magnificently, and for the Old Boys, Wetton and Quartermass made a strong effort to pull ahead, Wetton making 20 and Quartermass 11 runs. The School won by the narrow margin of 6 runs. Result : School, 80 ; Old Boys, 74.

SECOND ELEVEN.

Since the beginning of the Cricket season, up to the present time (July 4th), only three matches have been played, two of which took place away.

On May 27th a match was played at Edmonton against Latymer School, resulting in a win for the School. Higgins made nearly half the runs for the School, his score being 27. Result : School, 59 ; Latymer School, 54.

An exciting match was played at Hornsey against Hornsey County School on June 24th. Two innings were played, but although the School was leading by 3 at the end of the first innings, our opponents won by a net gain of 14. The School was represented by only ten players. Result : Hornsey County School, 86 ; School, 73.

On July 1st the return match with Latymer School was played on the School ground. This game resulted in a win for our opponents. Result : Latymer School, 44 ; School, 34.

A match with the Northern Polytechnic on June 3rd had to be scratched, as we could not play on the School ground. There are two matches yet to be played this season, one with Enfield Grammar School on July 15th, and the other with the Northern Polytechnic a week later, when it is hoped that the School will retrieve its previous losses by two good victories.

A. F. SHEFFIELD, VI A.

TENNIS CLUB—GIRLS.

The play since the beginning of the season has improved on the whole. This is the first year in which we have worked up a team to play matches. We have been unfortunate in losing one of our team for a month owing to an accident, and therefore have not been so successful as we had hoped. The list is as follows :—

- May 13th—Hornsey County School. Away. Won 83—71.
 May 29th—Finchley County School. At home. Lost 31—63.
 June 3rd—Tottenham County School. Away. Lost 41—46.
 June 12th—Finchley County School. Away. Lost 27—72.
 June 19th—Enfield County School. At home. Won 59—40.
 July 7th—Mistresses v. Girls. At home. Won by the
 Mistresses 84—60.
 July 10th—Hornsey County School. At home. Lost 54—45.
 July 12th—Enfield County School. Away.
 July 15th—Tottenham County School. At home. Lost 31
 —39.

CHRISTINE THOMPSON, VI B.

* * *

SWIMMING.

Under Mr. Annett and Mr. Blomfield swimming has become more general amongst the boys, and many are enthusiastic about it, attending regularly at the Wood Green open-air swimming baths. Owing to the closing of the Broomfield Park lake to swimmers, the daily practice of many of our swimmers has been unfortunately stopped, and it is the general hope that the difficulties will soon be removed and the morning swim renewed.

A Team Race between the Prefects and the rest of the School took place on the 4th of July, the School winning by about 5 yards. The School team consisted of Underhay, Latham, Brown, Carr and Marsh. On the return match on the following Friday evening the Prefects and Masters beat the School by half a length.

We would urge the younger boys to learn swimming, as it provides excellent physical exercise, is very good sport, and will fit them for life-saving. If the younger boys would learn to swim there would always be a team to compete for the Shield presented by the B.P.S.C., and which is now held by the School.

A great many of the girls also are going to the Tottenham Baths on Wednesday afternoons with Miss Ridley, and are enjoying the swimming very much.

Both boys and girls competed in Team Races for Secondary Schools in the neighbourhood at a Gala held at the Tottenham Baths on Thursday, July 6th. No prizes were won, though the girls took the second place among the six schools competing in their race. The team included Myrtle Campbell, Hester Campbell, Cissie Glyn-Jones and Dora Cogdale.

A. THOMSON, V.B.

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ENGLISH LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

President Mr. Auger.

During the Summer term this Society has not held any meetings, but it is hoped that they will be renewed with fresh vigour next term.

At the first meeting we propose to discuss the novels of Dickens and Thackeray. The debate will be opened by Oram (V A), who will maintain that "Thackeray is a greater novelist than Dickens." Denly (V A) will oppose.

The 4th, 5th and 6th Forms are invited to attend, and, in order that the discussion may be well maintained, the members are asked to read some works of Thackeray and Dickens during the holidays and to come prepared to support one side or the other.

MARGARET LACEY (VI A), Secretary.

CAMERA CLUB REPORT.

On the 15th of June last a very interesting paper was given to us by Kilbey, entitled, "Photography for Beginners." Many useful hints were gathered from this paper for the novice in photography, which Kilbey made very entertaining by illustrations taken with the aid of his own camera. A very large attendance witnessed this meeting, several non-members being present. A meeting had been called for the previous week, but had to be postponed owing to the fact that so many of the members were unavoidably (sic) detained.

During the meeting it was proposed that a cycling outing should be taken to Cuffley, which possesses many interesting features for the photographer. It was decided that this outing should be made one Saturday, but no definite date was fixed.

J. HOLLOWAY (V B), Secretary.

* * *

THE SCIENCE TEA.

On Monday, April 10th, A. F. Sheffield and Margaret Lacey, on behalf of the Prefects and Upper Sixth, invited the staff to a "Science Tea" in the Chemical Laboratory. The tea was served in a scientific manner, the cakes being handed round in evaporating basins and dessicators, while the tea was given in beakers with glass stirring rods for spoons.

Mr. Neely, Mr. Auger and Mr. Parker gave much pleasure with their songs. Doris Varley played a pianoforte solo, and Gladys Beal recited an amusing story called "Fauntleroy."

D. ARCHIBALD, VI A.

* * *

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

The Old Boys' Association has now nearly completed a very fair first year. The last two months of the football season were completed without our team once being defeated—a great im-

provement on the form shown early in the New Year. No cricket eleven is being run, so that the summer months may be considered as the close season of the Club, though the committee and officers are busy preparing for the coming football season. The Old Boys have secured admission to the North London League, and are also competing in the Wood Green Hospital Charity Competition.

The Secretary would be greatly obliged if all "intending" Old Boys would send in their names and addresses so that they may keep in touch with the School through the Association. Congratulations to the Red House on winning the Sports Cup for the second year running. Our best wishes also to all the members of the School who are sitting for examinations during the all-important months of June and July, and that they may cover the School and themselves with glory untold is the sincere wish of all previous sufferers and

THE ANCIENT ONE.

* * *

OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting will be held before the end of the term to discuss the formation of an Old Girls' Association. A President and Secretary will be elected and conditions of membership considered. All girls who are leaving this term from Forms IV. and upwards are asked to attend. Girls who are Prefects remaining in the School are also invited.

* * *

SCHOOL LIFE IN FICTION.

[This essay was written in school without preparation.—Ed.]

The subject of life at our public schools has always been one which appeals to both young and old. Nearly every author of repute has written some school story, but none has yet taken the place that "Tom Brown's Schooldays" holds in boyish imagination.

In this delightful book the reader becomes acquainted with school life at Rugby during the earlier part of the nineteenth century. The writer—an old Rugbeian—portrays the life of an average schoolboy with such vividness that a complete picture of the life of the school is given. Rugby had just received Dr. Arnold as its head when Tom Brown journeyed from the little village of Farringdon to take his place among his compeers. Although there is much in the school life at Rugby that is healthy and exhilarating, yet there is a darker side to the picture in the feats of the bully, Flashman. To those who are curious to follow Tom Brown's career after he left the scene of his boyish escapades and triumphs, there is "Tom Brown at Oxford," by the same author.

From Rugby we turn to another of our public schools—Christ's Hospital. Charles Lamb has given us an inimitable description of life there at the close of the eighteenth century, in his essays on "Christ's Hospital" and "Impressions on Reading the Essay." It appears from these that the standard of education attained in those days was very different from that of our own times. To some it may appear that the life of our forefathers at public schools left much to be desired; yet they were important factors in the moulding of that manhood which has preserved for us our position as the premier nation of the world.

Most of Dickens' works were written with some definite purpose in view. In this respect "Nicholas Nickleby" is no exception to the general rule. So successful was he in exposing the ghastly farce that paraded under the mask of education at some of our private schools, that he was nearly embroiled in libel cases with three Yorkshire schoolmasters. At Dotheboys Hall, in Yorkshire, where "Youth are washed, boarded, clothed, booked, furnished with pocket money and all necessaries," Wackford Squeers and his amiable Minerva carried on their establishment. Instead of rows of healthy boys as Thomas Hughes describes at Rugby, Dickens presents to the reader the image of desks, filled with squalid and, often, filthy creatures, some of them in rags which, "provided by the establishment," would to-day disgrace an applicant for Dr. Barnardo's charity. How much of the "Twenty Guineas per annum" did Wackford use in educating each of his charges? The majority of Squeers' "young gentlemen" were children whom it was not convenient to own, and who were packed off to this veritable Tartarus, often,

it is hoped, without a knowledge of its internal workings, so that they might be "out of the way." Thus, Snawley, the man who aids and abets Squeers, and who, having made some money in the grease trade, marries a widow with three children, who go under the escort of Nicholas Nickleby to Dotheboys Hall. What strikes the reader is the lack of that mirthful and jubilant shouting that characterises life at Rugby. All the boys here are too emaciated with hunger, want of clothing and general neglect—for one suit of clothes will last out two, or even three pupils—even to resist the bullyings of Wackford and Family.

From Yorkshire Dickens takes us, in his "Hard Times," to the Black Country. Here the proprietor of the iron works, Mr. Gradgrind, has founded a school where statistics, logic and political economy are taught, and combine to squeeze whatever vivacity there might be out of the children of the neighbourhood—for it is a free school.

In "Dombey and Son" the life of "little Paul" is shown at the academy at Brighton. His life is not unhappy there in the company of "Toots" and the Dr.'s "Come, gentlemen, let us resume our studies."

Since these books were written our schools have been materially improved. Nowadays Wackford Squeers' establishment would cause one or two questions in Parliament. Life at school to-day, if not exactly pleasant in one or two details, is infinitely better than it was. Sanguine people, however, think that our schools may still be improved in future.

R. ORAM, V A.

* * *

"HIAWATHA" ON THE SPORTS.

'Twas an afternoon in summer,
Bright and sunny was the weather ;
'Twas the day we all had longed for,
Longed for with keen expectation,—
Our great day of Sports Athletic.
All was ready, flags were flying,
Flags in honour of the Sports Day.
First came boys and girls all eager
For the honour of their "Houses,"—
Boys and girls, some bent on winning

All the races they were in for ;
Some resolved to cheer their "House" on,
Though for sports they could not enter.
Then came parents, friends and cousins,
Came with faces bright and smiling,
Came so gladly on our Sports Day,
Came to see the jumping, running,
Tug-of-war and funny sack race,
Skipping in a circle, cycling.
And while parents watched, delighted,
Proud of boys and girls athletic,
Music added further pleasure ;
For the bandsmen energetic
Played their instruments untiring,—
Played till evening shadows lengthened.
While the hours flew by so swiftly,
Hours so full of keenest interest,
Even parents grew excited,
Cheering on the various "Houses."
Then at last, the races over,
Boys and girls, with friends, assembled
All around the handsome prizes.
There were pictures for the "Houses"
Of the girls; and for the "Houses"
Of the boys, a cup of silver.
Then the pictures were presented
By the wife of Stepney's Member—
Stepney proud of such a Member—
To the "Red House" and the "Green House"
Of the girls, with loud applauding.
Whilst, among the boys, the "Red House"
Was once more declared the winner ;
Once more was the Cup presented
To the "Reds," who had obtained it
In the contest of each summer.
Then with cheers the Sports concluded,
Sports which will be long remembered,
And the happy day was over,
Over for another twelvemonth.
Then we slowly wended homewards.

DORIS K. VARLEY, VI B.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY.

1811—1863.

It has become customary, not altogether with injustice, to assign to the first half of the Victorian era anything in Literature or Art or domestic furniture which fails to satisfy the æsthetic cravings of modern taste. "Early Victorian," we say and think we have uttered the last word of disparagement.

No doubt it may be true that the windows of the Tottenham Court Road to-day illustrate the strides that have taken place in the artistic possibilities of the drawing-room. The crinolines of 1856 may be more painful to the modern eye than the hobble skirt of 1911. Still, it cannot be denied that, from that period of green rep furniture and ornate chalk drawings, of woollen mats and jangling lustres, there arose masters in literature as in art who would have made their mark in any age and at any time. And, steeped in the sentimental conventions of his time as he was, William Makepeace Thackeray was one of these.

Thackeray was born in India in 1811. He was sent to England early, and was educated at Charterhouse and Cambridge. In after life he was loyal to his school, which he immortalised as "Slaughterhouse" in "Barry Lyndon," and, later, with tenderer memories, as "Grey Friars" in "The Newcomes." But the time spent there does not seem to have been profitable. A school-fellow, Venables, describes him as "pretty, gentle and timid." A bust of him as a child in our National Portrait Gallery confirms the first adjective. Venables became a lifelong friend after a fight which ended in the smashing of Thackeray's nose—an incident indirectly alluded to in his choice of a pseudonym, Michael Angelo Titmarsh.

Thackeray's career at Cambridge was no more distinguished than his schooldays, but he made some brilliant friends there, among them Tennyson and Edward Fitzgerald, the translator of Omar Khayyam. On leaving College he went abroad, and on his return to England attempted to float a newspaper which turned out a hopeless failure.

It then became necessary that he should earn his living, and he had some idea of doing so with his pencil. But like Dante, who "once prepared to paint an angel," he was not destined to become a great artist, and it is probable that Charles Dickens did the world a service by refusing his proposal to provide the

illustrations for the "Pickwick Papers." After this rebuff Thackeray settled down in London to make journalism his profession. For some years he was a constant contributor to "Fraser's Magazine" and to "Punch," and, knowing this, it is disappointing to find his work in general lacking in wit. His jests have lost their freshness, and his characters never delight us with racy epigram such as abounds in the pages of George Eliot, and makes the very name of Mrs. Poyser raise a smile.

Thackeray's first novel, "Barry Lyndon," contains some of the best work he ever achieved. He was a master of satire, and here is his most satirical book. It is the story of an Irish rogue, told from the rogue's point of view. But satire, unfortunately, is never popular, and the book is little read.

His first great success, "Vanity Fair," came out in numbers, stretching over a period of more than two years, and the end was far out of sight when the first chapters were written. Its growth was straggling, sometimes rapid, sometimes slow, according to the health of the author. This led to a rambling and confused story with such an unmethodical and inartistic construction that it is only Thackeray's facile pen, his brilliant satire, and his power of characterisation, amounting to genius, which gives to "Vanity Fair" its unchallenged claim to greatness. But it contains the immortal Becky Sharp, the queen of adventuresses, in whom Thackeray tries to show to what a woman must come who sets her mind, resolutely and unswervingly, on her own personal, selfish, worldly gains.

"Pendennis" followed soon after "Vanity Fair," and has special interest on the plea that it is partly auto-biographical. Pen is certainly very human with his many faults and failings, and his Grub Street experiences must have been sketched from life.

It has been said of Thackeray that he could not draw a heroine worthy of the name. Pendennis's mother and his wife are "not so much women as bottles of tears, reverberating phonographs of sobs." Amelia Sedley has become a laughing-stock as a type of the mamby-pamby heroine. Her creator cared little for her himself, and when, before the book was finished, Mrs. Liddell said to him, "Oh, Mr. Thackeray, you must let Dobbin marry Amelia," he replied, "Well, he shall, and when he has got her he will not find her worth having."

It is in Ethel Newcome that we find Thackeray's one successful attempt to produce a true woman, a consistently delightful heroine. "The Newcomes" is made imperishable by many skilful'y drawn caricatures. Charles Honeyman, the arch-humbug, and the versatile Fred Bayham, are some of the happiest ventures.

The admiration for Colonel Newcome, eagerly acclaimed in his own day, has not survived. Thackeray knew there was something wrong. "He is a dear old boy, but . . . something of a twaddler," he wrote. The generosity and kindliness of the character are so deeply steeped in trivial sentimentality that he arouses but little enthusiasm in the reader of to-day. Nevertheless, there will always remain a few soft-hearted sentimentalists who still keep a corner of their hearts for Colonel Newcome side by side with Paul Dombey, and will joyfully pay their tribute of tears to the deathbed of either.

Of "Esmond," the only one of Thackeray's books which is a finished and harmonious whole, and of "The Virginians," there is not space to speak.

As contributions to Literature, Thackeray's essays are marred by extreme partisanship. So perverse is his judgment that he refuses to recognise in Swift the weapon he so often wields himself, and convicts the Dean of a bad heart by pretending to take seriously such obvious satire as "The modest proposal of eating children." Again, if Swift is an arch-fiend, Pope is an arch-angel, as white as the other is black, and the Wasp of Twickenham loses all his waspishness under the indulgence of his critic's friendly pen.

Thackeray's attitude to contemporary literature was as incredibly blind. He, journalist, essayist, novelist, a man whose profession was literature, absolutely ignored Ruskin and the influence his beautiful and studied prose was beginning to have on the younger generation of writers. Then the French novelists, who in ten years, 1830 to 1840, produced twelve books acknowledged to-day to be among the most perfect works of art in fiction ever published, were dismissed with contempt and indifference. Victor Hugo, Merimée, Flaubert, Balzac, whose names stand as far above Thackeray's as Thackeray's does above

Wilkie Collins's—all were discussed with rank British philistinism. His opinions of contemporary fiction were antiquated, unsound and insular.

As a critic of Art, then, Thackeray was a failure, dulled by the sentiment of the atmosphere in which he was born and bred. As a critic of life he was a huge success. His novels are not now, and perhaps never have been, read by the multitude with the avidity aroused by the works of Marie Corelli or Hall Caine. Nor, on the other hand, is he "Caviare to the General," appealing only to a small but infatuated audience such as are now furiously applauding our greatest living satirist at the Little Theatre. But it is safe to predict that "Esmond" and "The Newcomes" will be enjoyed as powerful and humorous sketches of English character long after many notorious and flamboyant novels of to-day are, in Pinero's words, "buried in the limbo of a nation's discarded toys."

* * *

A NIGHTMARE.

Last night I could not rest peacefully. Every time I endeavoured to forget that terrible fact which everyone had been impressing on me throughout the day, my conscience aided their expostulations, murmuring, "You have not written a single line for the Magazine. It is no use your trying to excuse yourself. You HAVE got time. You need not wait for inspiration. Write without it. Write something, anything, on any subject whatever; but write!"

Then suddenly I found myself in a criminal box: before me, in the robes and wig of a judge, sat my conscience, stern and grim. From the witness-box I heard a well-known voice, and, looking round, saw my prosecutor, who, not content with torturing me all day with ceaseless requests and demands for "something for the Magazine," now brought a case against me on a charge of disloyalty to that famous periodical. "My lord," said she, "I accuse the defendant of having unlawfully, wilfully and obstinately refused to contribute to our Magazine. She has no cause for excuse; the notice requesting contributions by July 1st has hung for weeks in such a conspicuous place that she could

not help seeing it every time she entered the school. My worthy colleague who will witness after me, and I, being editors of the aforesaid Magazine, have urgently and ceaselessly commanded her to write. July 1st has now come, and to our amazement and disgust no contribution from the defendant has reached us." After looking at me severely, she descended from the box, to give place to her fellow editor. "My lord," he began, "my mission is for the most part confined to bullying (or I should say politely requesting) the boys for contributions. But occasionally, as in the present case, I have joined my demands to those of the former witness in persuading the girls to write. The defendant has unheeded both our arguments and threats. Therefore I accuse her of disloyalty to our Magazine."

The jury, which was composed of those who had manfully done their best for the credit of the Magazine, found me guilty without delay. Then Conscience gave sentence: "I condemn the prisoner to endure for three months all those methods of torture by which editors encourage their staff to write. I think this is more severe than hard labour, and I hope she will repent of her former crime and become a loyal and constant supporter of the famous Magazine." I begged and prayed for mercy without success, and at last in despair I seized a pen and wrote the following:—

"ODE ON ONE KILLED BY POISON."

She looked at the bottle long,
Then murmured, "It is best ;
All day I'm threatened ' you must write,'
All night I have no rest.

"My brain, with thinking, aches and burns,
My cheek with worries pale ;
'Tis all no use, I CANNOT write ;—
I'll end my dismal tale."

She drained the bottle to the dregs—
'Twas filled with acid strong ;
Let those that know not editors
Imagine she did wrong.

MARGARET LACEY, VI A.

AN EXCURSION TO MT. ST. MICHEL.

During the Easter holidays I had the pleasure of paying a visit to the North of France. Among other places included in our programme was this isolated rock, aptly named by Victor Hugo "the eighth wonder of the world." It is situated, to be exact, only a metre or two on the eastern side of the River Coüesnon, which is the boundary between Brittany and Normandy. This river often changes its bed, the latter fact giving rise to the following rhyme :—

Le Coüesnon,
Par sa folie,
A mis le Mont
En Normandie.

This "merveille" is approached either by boat or along a causeway which was built in 1880. We soon reached the ramparts, enter through the King's gate, and ascend the one and only street of which the town boasts. On the way we pass old watch-towers, half-timbered houses, and other picturesque reminders of bygone days.

In a short time we have climbed the Mount and reach the gates of the Abbey-castle which overhangs the town, and stands, an everlasting monument to the skill, perseverance and thoroughness of the old Norman builders. Once inside, at every turn we come upon most beautiful architectural subjects. First we go through the Guard's Chamber, then up the steps toward the church, passing under a fortified bridge. Arriving at this relic of Norman work, we enter the nave, at one end of which can be seen the fog-bell, the only one saved from the French Revolution. From the nave we enter the world-famed cloister. Its 220 fine columns of rose-coloured granite are placed two by two; their sculptured designs are all different, owing to the fact that each monk worked them separately in his cell.

Having strolled through these fascinating cloisters, we then visited the refectory. This refectory, built in 1225 by Thomas des Chambres, is a vast apartment having a large vaulted roof. Every word spoken in this wonderful place is echoed back with startling distinctness. We now pass down dim stone stairways and along dark and gloomy passages until we reach the crypts,

the most notable being the Crypt de l'Aquillon and the Crypt des Gros Pilliers. Passing the "Iron Cage," we dive into the dungeons. These chambers of horror, insanitary, small and pitch dark, could tell some awful tales if they could speak. They could relate of the notable prisoners they held, who rarely left them alive. Some steps lead to a subterranean chapel, which prisoners called the Devil's Dungeon.

We now have to hurry to catch our train, from which we get the last glimpse of Mt. St. Michel. This cone of rock, with its ancient legends and buildings, has a peculiar charm which amounts to a fascination in its unrivalled rugged grandeur. People who go once, go again and again. Its one-streeted town, its ramparts, its abbey and castle, its historic remembrances, have an unconquerable magnetic influence over some people who visit this island rock and its marvels.

I may say, in conclusion, that an account of these parts, however brief, would not be complete unless reference were made of the terrible quicksands that abound here, which, history relates, swallowed up a whole army of British besiegers; and the tides, which come up so swiftly that, at times, their speed is said to exceed that of the fastest racehorse.

W. H. KILBEY, III A.

* * *

THE TIME MACHINE.

(With apologies to H. G. Wells.)

I.

"Yes," said the individual with unkempt hair and gleaming eyes, "this machine is my own invention. Other people travel through the air and water, and some have to go through space. I disdain to repeat these performances: they are beneath me, for I travel through Time. I mount into my machine, start the engines, and rush into the Past or the Future at the astonishing speed of sixty years an hour. Wonderful, is it not?"

"Very," I agreed, sceptically.

"Ah! I see you do not believe me," he continued, with a dramatic flourish of his arms. "No one believes me. All plod along in the same groove, refusing to accept any but the most apparent of statements, and nothing will rouse them short of gunpowder." Then, with another flourish and an insane light in his eyes, he edged close up to me and whispered, "I have the gunpowder, too!"

"Where?" I inquired, with a determination to humour him and a resolve to keep clear of the explosive.

"There!" he exclaimed, and waived his hand in the direction of a large galvanized iron shed. "My machine is kept there," he added, as a sort of explanatory footnote.

"And the gunpowder——?" I began, interrogatively.

"I spoke figuratively," he said, with a stern glance of reproof. "Come, and you shall see what no other mortal besides myself has seen." Then, as I hesitated, he went on, "Quick! It is the chance of a lifetime!"

II.

I followed him, and entered the shed. It was dark inside, but my companion soon switched on a dazzling arc lamp and I was able to see more clearly my surroundings. The whole of the building was occupied by a huge cigar-shaped object constructed of a glittering metal, and with gigantic propellers fixed at either end. Various other devices protruded from the body of the machine, and an ordinary wooden ladder was reared against the side.

We climbed to the top of the contrivance by this ladder and entered by a manhole, which was shut and fastened as soon as we had passed through. By the light which came through the glass porthole from outside I saw that I was on a small platform. Below me there was an intricate tangle of mechanism which was evidently controlled from the platform on which I stood, for I was surrounded by levers and switches and dials. On my left there was another and a larger platform, and, judging from its fittings, was no doubt intended for the leisure moments of the navigator.

I was interrupted in my survey by the voice of the inventor.

III.

"The motive power," he explained, "is obtained by introducing a minute drop of nitro-glycerine into the head of the cylinders and firing it with an electric spark. Those tanks there," pointing to the extreme end of the interior, "contain the fuel. I make my own air," he proceeded, glancing towards some apparatus at his side. Thus he went on, getting more enthusiastic in his explanations and more fantastic in his gestures every moment, until finally he was a raving fanatic.

"Last week," he told me, "I took a trip of twenty thousand years into the Past, a matter of forty hours. Looking out of my observation window, I saw them, in one brief, fleeting second, chopping off King Charles's head. I went on, and on, and still on. I saw the ancient Britons making weapons out of ham-bones, and Noah in his ark floating on a wide expanse of water. I reassured Noah as to his ultimate safety and reversed my engines, and so home. Now, if you will excuse me, I will go and rest, for I contemplate travelling into the Future to-morrow," concluded this marvellous stranger.

I left him.

IV.

A week later I visited the owner and inventor of the Time Machine in his asylum. As soon as he perceived me he made a sign of secrecy, and in a low tone recounted his adventures on his trip into the Future.

"All went well," he said, "and I had reached the year 3,000, when I was filled with a desire to get out of my machine and investigate more closely the wonders I saw. I did so, and the people, whose mental powers are so increased that their heads have to be supported artificially, at once seized me and confined me here. You see how fashions have changed," he remarked, pointing to the strait waistcoat he was fastened in, "and the new ideas in wall decoration?" indicating the padded walls of his cell.

I made some commonplace remark.

"Never mind," said the lunatic, in a concluding burst of confidence, "we'll soon get back again, for I see you've brought me my machine. Where did you find it?" And he made a grab at a pencil case dangling from my watch-guard.

HAROLD C. DENLY, V A.

COMPETITIONS.

We have been asked to draw attention to the Literary Competitions that will be held for Forms IV, V and VI early next term. A reading scheme has been drawn out and the list of books included is put up in each class-room. A wide choice of questions will be set, and prizes will be given for the best answers. As the list was given out early in the year, it is hoped that there will be good results. Members of the Debating Society should have a chance of doing Dickens and Thackeray questions well.

A prize will be given for the best set of wild flowers collected and pressed during the Summer holidays. The flowers should be mounted on cartridge paper, size 10 inches by 11 inches, and neatly fastened on with gummed paper. Specimens correctly mounted can be seen on applying to Miss Barham. This competition is open to all members of Forms III and IV.

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MAGAZINE ACCOUNTS.

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The deficit on last term's number was £1 3s. 8d., making a total amount of £1 15s for which we are in debt.

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The Editors wish to thank the following for contributions for which it has been impossible to find space: Dorothy Hawes, H. C. Denly, H. Jary, Doris Cooper and C. H. Varley. Some were disqualified through writing on both sides of the paper.