

"Reading maketh a full man; Conference a ready man; and Writing an exact man. -BACON.

THE

Elizabethan.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

We have to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to the Library:—

S. J. STERN, Esq., "Quarterly Review" for 1883
"Edinburgh Review" for 1883.

H. P. STOCK, Esq., "Post Office Directory of London,"
"Post Office Directory of Hertfordshire and
Middlesex."

The following have also been added to the Library by purchase:—

"Morris' History of British Birds," 8 vols.

We have to congratulate all lovers of Natural History among our schoolfellows on having within their reach such a valuable and fascinating work as *Morris' British Birds*. The author is the venerable Vicar of Norburnholme, in Yorkshire, who is perhaps the greatest observer of bird-life in the kingdom, and whose "*Nests and Eggs of British Birds*," we already possess. The work at present before us is, as its title implies, of a more ambitious character than that which treats of *Nests and Eggs*; and aims at no less than a full account of all the birds, whether native or migratory, at any time to be found in the British Isles. When we state that no less than 358 individual birds are treated of in these volumes the full and comprehensive nature of the information contained in them may be imagined. Each bird has a section to itself and the author's method of dealing with it is something as follows: The section is headed with the name

by which the bird is most commonly known. Then follow the other names both familiar and scientific with the authorities for them. The author then proceeds to give the *habitat* of the bird; the several countries and parts of countries in which it is found. Then comes a description of its manners and customs, its mode of flight, its food, the cry by which it is recognised, the nature and position of its nest, the appearance of the eggs, the size, weight, colour, &c., of the bird itself. Interspersed with this most accurate information are often very amusing and interesting anecdotes, and to crown all there is a beautiful coloured plate of nearly every bird described. As a sample of the information to be got from the book, we select the following items from the account of that common and exceedingly pretty little creature the "Blue Tit" (vol 1 pp. 202, sqq.)

As an instance of the fearlessness and vivacity of this tiny creature, we read the following of one which had been confined in a cage. "The cage was covered with close netting which it several times cut through, thereby effecting its escape into the room. It then flew to the children, and having taken hold of a piece of bread or cake in the hand of the youngest, would not forego the object of attack, though shaken with the greatest force the child could exert; indeed the latter was so persecuted on one occasion for a piece of apple that she ran crying out of the apartment."

The number of caterpillars, etc., which it devours is enormous. An observer counted the number of times which a pair of birds fed their young, and found it to be no less than 475 times in 18 hours! The birds each time brought one caterpillar, at others two or three, so that probably this one pair of birds destroyed six or seven hundred in the course of a single day. Well may the author remark that the "destruction of the blue cap by the farmer or gardener is an act of economical suicide."

Students of the Latin grammar will be interested to know

that the cry of this little bird is supposed to resemble the sound of the words "*me te se, præter que ne re.*"

The Blue Tit chooses the oddest places for its nest—sometimes a pump, where it is disturbed every time the handle is moved. Sometimes even a bottle with a neck of only one inch in diameter; but the most extraordinary situation of all was within the jaws of the skeleton of a man who had been executed and hung in chains for murder.

With the following description of the exceeding sagacity of the Tit we must conclude our account of these charming volumes, promising that though we have in one sense picked out the *tit*-bits, there is no lack of others equally interesting and amusing for the reader to find for himself:—

"Two birds made their appearance; one entered a hole and appeared to be pecking away at the wood inside, for as it managed to separate piece after piece, it brought them to the other bird, which remained at the entrance; and this last flew away with each piece, and carrying it to a distance from the tree, dropped it on the middle of the road, as if to avoid the detection which was almost sure to follow if the chips had been carelessly dropped at the foot of a tree in a frequented thoroughfare."

At first sight, we might not think there was much of interest to be found in the *Post Office Directory of Herts and Middlesex*. We might think here are to be found only dull statistics of Local Boards, lists of private residents, and such like. But such is not the case. This work is invaluable to those given to taking long walks of discovery, or to the larger number among us, who, on bicycles, are able to go to the other end of the county and back in an afternoon. In this work, besides maps, we have admirable descriptions, done by practised hands, of each village or town near us. There is nothing like having some object in view in expeditions of this kind; either a wish to see a historical site, or a wish to investigate the peculiar antiquities of a place.

If we set off to see Little Hormead, Mr. Kelly in his Directory tells us that charities amounting to £59 yearly are distributed among some 140 people. The income arose in this wise. A certain Mr. John Walls Porter was the son of a man who discovered more than £2,000 in hard cash stowed away in a portmanteau ; this money is supposed to have been the spoils accumulated by some highwayman. Highwaymen formerly infested all this neighbourhood. The interest of this money is now used in distributing money and clothes among the deserving poor, a good example of "*sic vos non vobis*." Or suppose we go to Welwyn, there we may lean against one of the pillars of the viaduct, and feel it vibrate as the Great Northern Railway express thunders along high above our heads. Here, in the churchyard, lies buried Dr. Young, the author of "*Night Thoughts*." He was rector here, and seems to have been a somewhat careless custodian of the Parish Registers, for in one of the very early ones is a memorandum stating that this book was mislaid for several years, and found after Dr. Young's death in his study by his son, and given into the custody of John Jones, curate, in 1797. At Abbots Langley was born Nicholas Brakspeare, afterwards Adrian IV., the only Englishman who was ever Pope. The village gets its name from having been granted at an early period to the Abbey of St. Albans to supply it with clothing ; another village was granted to the same Abbey to improve the quality of the small beer supplied to the visitors. At the other Langley, called King's Langley, is an altar tomb of white marble, to Edmund de Langley, Duke of York, fifth son of Edward III. When this tomb was taken down and was being moved in the course of alterations which were being made to the chancel, the remains of a male and two females were found ; these are thought to be those of the Royal Plantagenet, of his wife Isabel of Castille, and of a daughter. Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, of whom we have often heard in the class-rooms, was buried here in 1312.

At Tottenham, a room over the south porch of the Church was occupied for forty years by one Elizabeth Fleming, who died in 1790, at the age of 100. The vestry bell in this Church was formerly the alarm bell of the garrison of Quebec; it now calls the peaceful suburban Londoners to church. The vestry of this Church was built and endowed by Lord Coleraine in 1796, upon condition that he and his family should possess the vault beneath. Another Lord Coleraine in the XVII. century, was one of our Governors. "He died sodenly in his house at Totteridge," and was buried in the churchyard there. The circumstances of his death, Mr. Cass tells us in his history of our School, "are quaintly recorded in a curious genealogical sketch in M.S. of the Hare family, compiled early in the last century—"being att supper one night, and talking merrily with some gentlemen of his acquaintance, and having a turkey bone in his mouth, it was his hard hap, through extreame laughter (att some witty expression of one of them) to cause itt to go the wrong way w^{ch} (notwithstanding great care was taken for the preservation of his life) was y^e instrument of his death," Northolt, not far from Harrow, was, like Barnet, the scene of struggles during the Wars of the Roses, as well as during the Parliamentary War—human bones are still turned up by the plough. At Aldenham and Tewin, we have examples of the eccentric and uncomfortable way in which trees grow. At Tewin, the tomb of Lady Ann Grimstone is remarkable from the circumstance of several trees, ash and sycamore, of considerable size, having grown through various parts of the stone work, displacing in their growth iron railings and stone, and thriving none the less in spite of all hindrances. At Great Berkhamstead are almshouses founded by Sayer, chief cook to Charles II.; he, we suppose, was responsible for the Monarch's good temper, by which Charles is known as the "Merrie Monarch"; we should like to know how he made up his dishes, but we are afraid that is now hopeless, as the

secret died with him. At Great Berkhamstead Castle, Henry III. kept his court; he was besieged here by Prince Louis of France, in 1216. King Edward III. frequently lived here, as did his son, the Black Prince. Great Berkhamstead is a longish walk, but it is easily accessible with a bicycle. Bramfield, not far from Hertford, was the first living possessed by Thomas Becket, that may be the reason why Northaw Church, which is in the same hundred as Bramfield, is dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury. Close to Northaw is Cheshunt. At Cheshunt House once lived Cardinal Wolsey. Cheshunt Park was formerly the property of Oliver Cromwell, a lineal descendant from the Protector. Connected with the Manors of Cheshunt is a curious custom; an imaginary line running through the parish from north to south, is called "the bank line," and in cases of intestacy, all copyhold property on the western side, or "above bank" as it is called, descends to the eldest son, whilst all on the eastern side, or "below bank," descends to the youngest son. Why this should be so cannot now be explained. We have seen how intimately our county is connected with the Plantagenet Kings. The Tudor Sovereigns also especially favoured Herts. The children of Henry VII. lived in Hunsdon; and at Hatfield Palace resided Edward VI. and Elizabeth.

We have only dipped very lightly indeed into the interesting information contained in this work, for we have said nothing of the curious historical details, attaching to such towns as St. Albans and Hatfield. We trust we have shewn how this work may give interest and pleasure to many a holiday ramble set on foot by our fellows.

F A S T I.

CONCERT.—Our annual concert came off as usual at the end of last term. It seems somewhat late, now that the leaves are beginning to show, to write about it; we do so in order that we may here thank our kind friends who so readily assisted us, as well as for the benefit of old Elizabethans, many of whom are far out of the reach of our voices. In the second piece, a Russian air by Salzman, Cowing's violin was heard for the first and we trust not the last time. After a part song from the Choral Society, Fletcher ma. sang "The Lost Chord." Again the Choral Society gave us a selection from Lecoq's "Madame Angot," which was followed by a quartett from Fletcher ma. and mi., and Mr Columbine and Mr. Hodson. After a duet, violin and voice, and a solo from Mr. Columbine, the part song "Farewell to the Forest" (Mendelssohn), brought the first part to an end. The second part began with Barnby's "Sweet and Low," which was followed by a quartett (xxiv. in C.) from Mozart, in which some of our friends kindly did everything, Mr. Healey Johnson playing the flute, Mr. G. J. Ashley the violin, Mons. J. F. P. Massé the violin, and Mr W. A. Hill the violincello. Then the Choral Society gave us a selection from Offenbach's "Geneviève de Brabant." This was followed by another quartett by the same four as sang in the first part; and to conclude, we had Farmer's very enjoyable and amusing nursery rhymes, sung quite *con amore*. It will be a long while before we shall forget the lilt of the last verse—

"Mary, Mary, quite contrary.
How does your garden grow;
Silver bells and cockle shells,
And pretty maids all in a row."

We have refrained from criticising individual performers, as we feel it would be ungracious to do so when all strove to do their best to please our kind friends who honoured us with their presence. We feel that our thanks are due to Mr. Columbine, the conductor, for the pains and trouble he took, as well as to Mr. H. W. and Mr. R. Poole, who so kindly helped us at the piano and organ.

FIELD ACCOUNT.

Balance Sheet for the Year, 1883.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from 1882	5	17 0	Labour	2	6 0
Donations and Subscrip-			Repairs, &c.	0	19 3
tions	5	7 0	Printing, Stamps and		
Fines	1	11 8	Stationery	0	4 2
Sale of Grass	1	15 0	Cricket and Football re-		
Rent from Barnet and			quisites	6	10 3
Hadley Tennis Club	5	0 0	Rent—1 year	30	0 0
Rent from Ravenscroft			Balance in hand	7	1 0
Tennis Club ..	2	15 0			
Fees—Spring Term ..	7	12 6			
,, Summer „ ..	8	15 0			
,, Michaelmas Term	8	7 6			
	£47	0 8		£47	0 8

ROLLER FUND.

Amount already acknowledged	2	5 0
Simons M. (on leaving)	1	1 0
G. Acason, Esq.	0	7 6
Balance from Fives' Ties	0	5 0
	£3	18 6

The Roller Fund progresses but slowly. Now that the cricketing season is fast approaching it is becoming urgently necessary that we should possess this most indispensable adjunct to the field. Hitherto we have relied on the chances of being able to borrow from our friends and neighbours, and through the kindness of Mr. Coe and Mr. Bryant we

have generally been able to secure the occasional use of a roller. Both these gentlemen, we much regret to say, are now dead, and we should this year accordingly be in a very great difficulty in finding the possessors of field rollers equally kind with them in lending to us. On this and on every ground it is very desirable that we should possess a roller for ourselves, and we hope that some other old Elizabethans who see this may be touched with the same feeling of generosity as Simons max., who has patriotically sent us the deposit fee due to him on leaving; and as Mr. Acason, who has so often helped us before, and whom we have again to thank for a kind contribution.

It is satisfactory to note that the balance on the Field Account, which last year, for the first time within the memory of man, was on the right side—a result brought about by the generous exertions of the Tennis Club in giving a concert on our behalf—has been slightly increased this year. It is right, however, to point out that this balance is already practically mortgaged to that insatiate monster “Rent.” On looking at the balance sheet it will be seen that the “Fees,” the only comparatively certain source of income, last year covered very little more than three-quarters of the rent. As far as we can judge from the numbers at present in the Upper School, on which these “Fees” depend, the same is likely to be the case this year, so that the whole of the £7 balance will be swallowed up in paying the fourth quarter’s rent. The donations and subscriptions of the Elevens, as will be seen, only cover the necessary expenses of labour etc., and the cost of providing materials. So that for the maintenance of any balance whatever to the good, we are dependent on the uncertain support of the Tennis Clubs, which last year used portions of our ground. We hope that this support will be continued this year and should be glad even to hear of other Clubs applying for use of grounds in the field which is so conveniently situated. Part

of our pecuniary difficulties arises, as we cannot too often repeat—though in doing so we be but “*Vox clamantis in deserto*”—from the carelessness and mischievousness of our own fellows and of our neighbours in so recklessly destroying our fences. The result of this is that we are unable to let the field for grazing purposes, and so, instead of making as we ought about £10 a year on this head, all we got for the grass last year was £1 15s. This is a dead loss to the School in materials and other requisites for an efficient cricketing team. We had cherished dreams of this year being able to get the services of a professional to *teach* cricket, and do all those things in a field which so much contribute to the efficiency of good and well-managed clubs. But with the weight of the roller upon our minds—though unfortunately not yet upon our *pitch*—we fear we shall have to postpone this most desirable addition to our equipment, until the fellows are generally more sensible and better able to look after their own interests than they are at present.

NOTES OF NEWS.

PRESENTATION.—On the 24th January, the Rev. C. J. Goody, vicar of Whetstone, presented to Charles W. F. Mitchell (O. E.), a purse containing £20, as well as a folio copy of the *Messiah*, containing the following inscription:—“Presented to Mr. Charles Mitchell, with a purse of £20, from the congregation of St. John’s, Whetstone, as a token of their esteem for him personally, and of their appreciation of his services as honorary Organist of that church. January, 1884.” Mr. Mitchell has been Organist for nearly 3½ years.

ROLLER FUND.—On another page will be found an account of the way in which this fund “*vires acquirit eundo*.”

THE SCHOOL.—The following boys left last term :—French R. H., King F. E., Chipperfield C. C., Simons M., Fossett W. H., Barrett W. T., Barrett E., Latham F. J., Latham H. R., Morison B., Ogles A.

The following have joined this term :—Form V.—Gooding A. J. Form IV.—Glover S. H., Gooding L. G. Form III.—Trend A. E., Matthews H., Engleheart A. N., Lumsden R. H., Pitson R. C. Form II.—Watson E. R. Lower School.—Fosbroke H. E., Hart F. C., Phillips F., Morgan E. L., Morgan G. Gaffney, E. J.

The following have been made Prefects this term :—Poole, F. C., Widdicombe A. E. G.

OLD ELIZABETHANS.—In January last, W. T. Holmes Spicer, B.A., having passed all his examinations, was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and received his diploma to practise. About the same time, R. H. French took his first step to the medical profession, by passing the Arts Examination at Apothecaries Hall.

SCIENCE AND ART PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES.—Towards the end of last term, Mr. Hay, the hon. sec. for the South Kensington Classes, kindly distributed in the hall the prizes and certificates which had been won by those who had been successful in the several examinations in mathematics, chemistry, and drawing. He was accompanied on the dais by the Masters, and, after addressing a few kindly and encouraging remarks to the school generally, he proceeded to deliver the various distinctions to their fortunate winners. The Head Master then thanked Mr. Hay for his hearty interest in the welfare of the school, to the business of which he devotes so much time and labour, and for his kindness in coming that day. A half-holiday, asked for by Mr. Hay, and readily granted by the Head Master, in honour of the successful students, was greeted with hearty applause by the school.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION.—We understand that this searching ordeal will take place early in July, and be conducted as last year by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. The prizes to be awarded will, we believe, be very much as they were last year, so that the ambitious among us may even now begin to lay their plans for securing one or other of the coveted distinctions. For the benefit of new-comers, we append a list of the prizes which will probably be offered:—*Divinity*: (1) Bishop Broughton Prize, open to the School; (2) Head Master's Prize for boys under 13. *Engl sh History*: Chairman of Governors' Prizes—(1) open; (2) for those under 13. *Latin*: (1) open; (2) for those under 13. *French*: (1) open; (2) for those under 13. *Geography*: (1) open; (2) for those under 13. Besides these general school prizes, there are prizes for the best aggregate position in each Form and Set, and for Greek, German, Recitations, etc.

SPEECH DAY.—For this annual festival we shall have to look out for much hitherto untried material. Most of those fellows who have amused us so much in past years have either already left or will have left before Speech Day comes. We hope, however, that the old saying that "there is as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it," will be verified with us in this matter. We would suggest that those who feel within them any buddings of histrionic talent, should at once begin to practise their powers, so as not to leave the whole strain of preparation to the last few weeks. Doubtless the authorities will soon be casting their eyes along our ranks on the look out for promising material.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.—This year our spring holidays will be really Easter holidays, owing to Easter falling so late. We believe that this term will end on the Thursday before Good Friday, *i.e.*, April 10th; and next term, in consequence, begin somewhere about April 26th, instead of at the beginning of May as is usual. As, however, the "last Saturday

in July," which is our customary day for finishing the school year, also falls early this year, things will about right themselves.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.—We beg leave with many thanks, to acknowledge the receipt of the following School Magazines:—*The Lily, The Reading School Magazine, Our Magazine, The Mill Hill Magazine, The Tonbridgian, The Berkhamstedian, The Norvicensian, The Aldenhamian, The Elizabethan, The Felstedian.*

EDITORIAL.

Our thoughts this term turn themselves naturally to our cricket prospects. The fellows are beginning to grow weary of football; because, we suppose, there is not that novelty about the game there was last term, so complaints are frequent that the ground is heavy or the weather is warm, or there is some pressing engagement which hinders appearance in the field. Should, however, hope loom on the horizon, of a "field holiday," forthwith all these scruples disappear like snow in warm sunshine. As a change from football we have heard of paper chases, and this is not to be wondered at, for situated as we are on the top of Barnet hill, the hares have great choice of country for a run. We wonder "a run" has never been arranged across the fields to Hendon. If the hares went down the few hundred yards of Manor Road, the rest of the way might be entirely across fields, for after crossing the fields from Maize Lane to Totteridge, there is a field path which takes you across Mill Hill High Street, to Hendon; and there is another way across fields, but somewhat longer, for the return. Doubtless we may yet hear of "a run" having been taken in this direction. The Fives' ties

which were being played out towards the end of last term were not played out before the end of term, many of the half-holidays turning out wet. On coming back this term we found that several of the fellows engaged had left. The Games' Committee finding it hopeless to arrange the remnants so as to give general satisfaction, have solved the difficulty by handing over the entries to the roller fund. On the whole we think this was the wisest course. We hope ere long to see a roller of our own on the "pitch." We certainly enjoy great advantages in being so near to town, but this fact is a distinct drawback to cricket, for it necessarily makes the rent of a field high. We cannot say that we should welcome the no rent agitation which seems to have been so successful in another part of the kingdom, but we must say that when we hear of reductions of fifteen and twenty per cent. on rent, we heartily wish that we might suffer in the same way. We believe, after talking with the secretary, that there is every prospect of a successful season for the Eleven. Matches have been arranged, and no doubt the captain will make some arrangement for practice somewhat similar to the one we had last year, and which experience showed suited the fellows admirably. There is, we believe, the same energy as there was last season among the junior fellows. We hope this season their pitch may be still better than last year.

We are glad to hear from the librarian that the library continues as popular as ever. Some time back a census was taken, if we may use the word, of the most popular author among boys. It was found in other schools that Mayne Reid and Marryatt were lightly esteemed, in boyish minds, in comparison with Verne, and writers like Verne. We are no exception. Verne's works we hear have been bound and re-bound, and still they are as eagerly devoured as ever. We even believe that some minds derive a fresh delight every time the same work is re-read. At any rate the constant

demand for books of adventure is unmistakably evidenced by the binder's accounts. Adventures, it seems, the more improbable and unlikely they are, will always be read, provided only they are in print. Next to books of adventures, deeds of daring and such like, works on natural history are the greatest favourites. Our library is perhaps exceptionally well off in this respect, thanks in a great degree to Mr. Stapylton's very suitable donation some time back, of upwards of fifty volumes of the Naturalist's Library. While writing about donations we might remind the fellows that the "book plates" in sundry volumes bear evidence to the existence of a custom which we hope will never grow obsolete, of fellows presenting books to the library on leaving. The librarian wishes to thank French *ma.* last term, and Church *max.* this term, for much assistance in the minor details of working the library. The library is as pleasant and as cheerful a room as any in the whole of our school buildings. We are glad to find that the shelves offer sufficient attractions to some for quietly carrying on their own reading, reading which we trust is not too often broken by consulting the back volumes of *Punch*.

Of the other school institutions, which cannot in any way come under the heading of "Lessons," or of things appertaining to "Lessons," the Choral Society continues as vigorous as ever. The violin seems to be the most popular instrument next to the piano. But with respect to singing, which we must take to be the real *raison d'être* of the society, this is the term in which the members under the guidance of Mr. Columbine, lay the foundations of the work which is done later on in the year. As this is the case there is but little to place on record, though we have no doubt that later in the year, our friends will have audible proof of our efforts.

Turning now for a few moments from "our noble selves" to the outside world, we would call attention to the list of "our contemporaries," which we are glad to be able to

publish in each number. We do not ourselves profess to give a detailed criticism of the various School Magazines, which we receive, as is the custom with many editors, but none the less do we carefully study their contents and form our opinion upon them. We hope that many fellows in all parts of the school do the same thing. They will find much to emulate, and much also, we are bound to say, to avoid. One point which strikes us most forcibly in a general view of most of the magazines which come under our notice, is that not many of them fulfil what in our humble judgement is the proper function of a school publication, *i.e.*, to be primarily, if not exclusively, a record of the various incidents which make up the life of a school. Many of "Our Contemporaries" seem to us to soar too high, and to attempt what, if the magazines are to be conducted by boys, must in most cases result in "making bricks without straw." The various literary productions, with which so many school magazines are "padded," though no doubt the cause of much gratification to the aspiring authors, can hardly be considered to be of permanent value, and often no doubt crowd out matter of which it might well be said that "*hæc olim meminisse jurabit.*" Who will care, for instance, ten or twenty years hence, to read in the *Felstedian* what our namesake of Westminster describes as "a poetical(?) effusion of 32 lines, of which every other line terminates with a word ending in *-ation*, appropriately signed D. T."? Or what edification is likely to be got from the poem on "Olympic Games" in the *Wellingtonian*, the author of which, says the same critic, ought not to be at large? But of distinctions in the universities, the class rooms, the field, the concert rooms, and so on, we can imagine that fellows who keep and bind up their magazines may be proud to read in days to come, and may we not say too—

"This story shall the good man teach his son."

Such we conceive should be the "*farrago libelli*" of a school magazine, and such we strive to make our modest journal.