

The Erasmusian.

No. 19.

DECEMBER.

1903.

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DUBLIN

PRINTED BY ROBERT T. WHITE, 45 FLEET STREET.

THE ERASMIAN.

DUBLIN, DECEMBER, 1903.

School Notes.

We were bold enough to prophecy in our last number that we should be able to give a good account of our candidates for Junior Exhibitions. We thought we might neglect the warning never to prophecy unless you know, but we did not anticipate the excellent results which it is here our duty and our pleasure to chronicle.

We obtained four Exhibitions, gaining the First, Second, Seventh and Twelfth places, which is the best result the school has ever achieved in this examination, although it has more than once before obtained as many as four exhibitions.

J. C. Duncan, who was first, obtains the High School Exhibition, and because he was first the value of the exhibition is increased from £30 to £40 for four years. His total of marks was 668½ out of 1000.

J. C. Duncan is now the fifth High School boy who has obtained the first

place at this examination in six years, a fact worthy of record. The first place was obtained in 1898 by C. Spiro, in 1899 by N. B. White, in 1900 by H. G. Hillas, in 1902 by J. Purser.

The second place was taken by C. Spiro, only twelve marks behind, with a total of 656½. G. Chester Duggan was seventh with 628½, and J. H. F. Leland was twelfth with 557½.

The record of entrance prizes is still more remarkable and forms a record for the school which it will be very hard to beat. J. H. F. Leland obtained the First Prize for Greek Verse, the second for Latin Verse, and the second for English Literature; G. C. Duggan obtained the First Prize for English Literature, the Second Prize for History and Geography, the Second Prize in French; J. C. Duncan obtained the Second Prize for Greek Verse, and M. Noyk the only prize for Hebrew.

Besides the exhibitioners the following have entered Trinity from the

school this October:—M. Noyk, M. R. Richardson, C. S. Burrows, R. A. Oulton, F. N. Smartt, S. Bradford, J. H. Stanton.

M. A. C. Wilkins has obtained a Second Class Classical Scholarship at the Royal University this autumn. This is a very remarkable distinction for a schoolboy, as the limit of age is 21, and the competition is against the various Queen's and other colleges connected with the R.U.I. The school has not obtained a scholarship at the Royal since the days of Nairn and Alton.

When we turn to the fields of football, our record is very different. The school seems to have fallen under a cloud, as far as football is concerned, the chief defect being the absence of good threequarters, who can run fast, dodge and tackle. We are glad, however, to observe considerable improvement upon the beginning of the season, and it appears probable that in spite of the unfortunate start, the year's football will eventually turn out no bad record. The whole team must do its best, keep in form, and play its hardest.

We publish in another column the balance sheet of the sports, held in September, showing a slight balance in hand.

We thought we had about exhausted

the subject of the inconsistencies of English spelling, but an old boy sends us a further specimen:—

You can't weigh grams with a grammar,
Nor yet cure hams with a hammer,
Do sums with a summer,
Stew plums with a plumber,
Nor shear an old ram with a rammer.

"One who couldn't write lines with a liner."

What has become of the Cycling Club? There are many cyclists in the school. Has none of them the energy to keep the club going and to organise runs on the monthly holidays and other days? Runs should be arranged for the Xmas Holidays, and there is plenty of time for this to be done.

Another useful institution in the school used to be cross country runs, on monthly holidays as well as on other days, which produced a good deal of fun as well as healthy exercise. We fancy the football club might make use of this idea. A football player does not need to be playing football every day. Two matches a week should be the maximum of football, other exercise is needed to keep him in form, and nothing is better than, among other things, an occasional run of five or six miles across country.

Both the Physical and the Chemical Laboratories have now been for some

time in full swing, and the school is now probably better equipped in both branches than any in Dublin. For the benefit of old boys we may state that the two Laboratories are distinct, are in the new building, and each equal in size to two of the class-rooms there. They are under the care of Mr. Lyster.

Notes on Old Boys.

F. A. Longworth has been appointed by the Marquis of Londonderry, the Lord President of the Council and English Minister of Education, to be his official private Secretary. We congratulate him heartily on his appointment. F. A. Longworth is one of the most brilliant old boys who ever left the school, and we look forward with confidence to his future career. He won first place at the Junior Exhibition Examination in 1895, Classical Scholarship in 1897, and Studentship in 1898, and other distinctions too numerous to mention.

F. E. A. Campbell, who obtained a Classical Scholarship in Trinity last June, has been appointed by the Council of the University of Greiswald, in Germany, Lecturer in English Literature and History. This appointment has been ratified by the German Government.

Thomas Hume Wisdom, of 17 Greenmount Road, Terenure, was married on October 28th at St. Stephen's Church, Dublin, by the Rev. Charles Dowse, M.A., Rector of Christ Church, Leeson Park, assisted by the Rev. N. B. Kennedy, B.D., Rector of St. Andrew's, to Jane S. M. Oulton, eldest daughter of Henry H. Oulton, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., of Dublin.

T. H. Wisdom was a Junior Grade Exhibitioner in 1887, and obtained from the school a clerkship in Guinness's. His brother J. H., who won Exhibitions in Junior, Middle and Senior Grades, is now in the Civil Service in London.

J. A. O. Fitzpatrick, LL.B., the eldest son of S. A. O. Fitzpatrick, of Glen Pool, Terenure, was married on October 29th at St. Matthias' Church, Dublin, by the Rev. Henry A. D. Barbor, M.A., brother of the bride, assisted by the Rev. John A. Jennings, M.A., and the Rev. J. P. Phair, M.A., to Amy Knox, daughter of Richard Dawson Barbor, of Rathmore, Grosvenor Road.

J. A. O. Fitzpatrick was awarded this session the President's Gold Medal for English Composition in the College Historical Society, splendidly finishing his brilliant course at Trinity, before he left for India, to commence his I.C.S. career early in November.

Another old boy, C. H. L. Farran, went off to India in October to commence his career in the Indian Police on the North-West Frontier.

Innis E. Gibson, whose cycling tricks have entertained us for so many years at the sports, has gone to South Africa, where he intends settling down to a business career.

Another old boy, distinguished also as a cyclist, Dr. W. R. Armstrong, has left Ireland to take up a legal appointment in the Straits Settlements.

The Rev. F. R. M. Hitchcock, has an article on Wendt's theory of the Fourth Gospel in the current number of "Hermathena."

G. A. Joynt had a splendid reception at the opening meeting of the College Philosophical Society, when he read his presidential paper on "Some Aspects of Irish Economies," which we hope, in part at least, to reproduce in our columns. He was supported by an able platform, Rt. Hon. Mr. Justice Madden (in the chair), Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P.; Captain Shawe Taylor, Very Rev. Dean Bernard, and Mr. J. Wakely, K.C.

His brother, W. G., is having interesting times on the West Coast of

Africa. He is there as a doctor, but is remote from white civilization, and among other employments, settles the quarrels of sceptred dusky monarchs.

The following extracts from his letters will give some idea of his life at present:

"Attabubu is one of the most settled districts in Africa, and the government is something to sigh after. There may be fever lurking round; I never see it and am in a most robust condition. Sometimes the temperature of 78 in the morning, varying to 88 in the afternoon gets monotonous, but is after all sometimes relieved by failing to fall at night, and sometimes by rising to 92 in the day. . . .

Three months ago a wretched skeleton of a boy came here by the most remarkable means of progression I have ever seen. He sat on the ground, fastened a band round the back of his neck supporting his left foot, so that the knee was up to his chin. Then each step consisted in extending the right leg as he sat and by aid of a stick drawing himself up to it. The left thigh was fully bent at the hip and the left leg at the knee by attacks of guinea-worm and he was in great pain. I treated him, and this evening a plump, well-made boy came carrying a heavy load—a present—on his head, and it was some time before I recognised my former patient. . . . This brings me to the subject of presents, of which I

get many. They are generally yams, bananas, and fowl. It would seem, therefore, that living should be cheap, but the return present is always just double the market values. The king sends me a bunch of bananas as a present, I give the carrier a shilling for the monarch; probably my boy would buy them in the market for sixpence. Medicine and advice are given free; whenever I mention my fee, simply to choke them off, as medicine is not supplied by the government except in the most sparing quantities, they say I am their father, therefore they come. When there is nothing to do, I sometimes send for the king or the chief of the Hausa town and rate him about the dirt of his town, and tell him he is an unpleasant savage, a worker of iniquity, and need not think of heaven when he dies."

F. V. Gordon is now the editor of *T.C.D.*, and has been elected on the Committee of the College Historical Society.

C. H. Darley obtained the Silver Medals for Oratory in both the College Historical and the College Philosophical Societies, and also the Silver Medal for Composition in the Philosophical.

We are glad to see E. V. Longworth coming to the front as one of our

leading public speakers. We have noticed him on several platforms, including that of the Solicitors' Apprentices Debating Society.

G. R. Haynes and G. H. Booth, have both been successful in obtaining appointments in the Great Southern and Western Railway, under the new system of competitive examinations.

There is a long list of Honors in Trinity recorded in our columns this number, from which we single out the names of Newport B. White, who has obtained Senior Moderatorships and Gold Medals, both for Classics and for Logics and Ethics, and in addition the Brooke Prize in Classics; R. G. Leonard, who has won a Senior Moderatorship and Gold Medal, with a prize of £20, for Legal and Political Science; J. L. I. Stephenson, who has won the Michael Roberts Prize for Mathematics, and G. A. Joynt who has obtained his Engineering Degree with flying colours.

We observe every week a large number of familiar names on the leading Dublin First Fifteens and other clubs, and are glad to see that we are well represented on the Trinity Fifteen by Harry Thrift as a threequarter, and H. J. Knox as forward.

H. W. White has entered the Royal College of Surgeons.

Archy Rosenthal has appeared again on Dublin platforms after an absence of some years. He played at the Dublin Orchestral Society's Concert, and again at the Orpheus Concert, where one of his pieces was an "Irish Rhapsody," composed by himself.

W. B. Yeats continues his efforts in the cause of the Irish Literary Theatre, and has brought out in Dublin two plays this autumn: a morality play entitled "The Hour Glass," and a comedy "The Pot of Broth."

It is with much pleasure that we congratulate Leslie Ashe on winning the first prize of £1,000 in the *Times* Encyclopædia Britannica Competition. This competition was organized last spring in connexion with the completion of the tenth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and last summer it was difficult to go anywhere without being bombarded with all sorts of questions by competitors bravely grappling with the three sets of questions set by the *Times*, the object being, by the offer of prizes ranging from £1,000 to £10, to stimulate a general taste for useful reading, and to gauge the competitors' capacity for acquiring, from reading, general information which they had not

before possessed. The competition was open only to those who had bought the *Encyclopædia* from the *Times*, or who paid two guineas for a loan copy for purposes of the competition. To show the magnitude of this learned competition over 127,000 letters were received by the *Times* in connexion with it, no fewer than 11,080 persons entered, and 5,646 persevered to the end and sent in answers to all the three question papers. The competition closed on October 15th, and the result declared on December 1st. There were ninety-three prizes. No set of answers was perfect, but Leslie Ashe failed in only one question. It appears that he worked an hour a day for three months at the questions, and his work served as a tonic, for he was near a break down in his health and had been on a voyage to Australia. He entered T.C.D. in 1884, was Classical Sizar and Senior Exhibitioner in 1886, Classical Scholar in 1887, and Supplemental Gold Medallist in Classics in 1890. He married a sister of one of the founders and strongest supporters of the *Erasmian*—A. W. R. Cheales.

Obituary.

It is with very great regret that we announce the death, on October 5th, of Rev. William Montague Hackett, M.A., of St. Mary's, Hoxton, London, the third son of the late Rev. Peter Hackett, B.A., Rector of Aghmacart,

Queen's County. He was connected with the school both as a boy and a master. His death at the early age of 46 was the direct result of overwork in the London slums. Although he died in London, he was buried in Mount Jerome.

Another old boy, whose death we regret to announce, is Arthur W. Harris, the third surviving son of the late Alderman Harris, who died very suddenly at West Hampstead, London, in his 41st year.

College Notes.

The success of the High School boys at this year's entrance examinations has been nothing short of phenomenal. In the most important exam.—that for Junior Exhibitions—we have gained the first place for the fifth time in six years. This year's winner—J. C. Duncan—is to be congratulated on his brilliant success. We must also congratulate C. Spiro, who, after gaining a Mathematical Sizarship, was only beaten for first place by 12 marks. Nor can we omit G. C. Duggan and J. H. Leland from our list, and the success of both these is most gratifying.

It might be expected that after getting 4 out of 13 exhibitions, the High School

had got its share. But in the entrance prize exams., no fewer than 8 out of a possible 15 fell to the share of J. C. Duncan, G. C. Duggan, J. H. Leland and M. Noyk. M. Noyk obtained the only Hebrew prize awarded, and his answering must have been exceptionally good, as the prize given is value £5. Duncan got second prize in Greek Verse, and Duggan got first in English Literature and second in French, and in Modern History and Geography. Leland obtained first in Greek Verse, and second in Latin Verse and in English Literature. Perhaps it is not out of place here to advise Leland to stick to poetry, English as well as Classical, for there are plenty of prizes awarded to budding poets in Trinity.

The results of the other exams bear eloquent testimony to the soundness of the High School training. G. A. Joynt has been eminently successful in the Engineering School, while N. B. White has obtained two Senior Moderatorships. It is very pleasing to notice the success of old Erasmian officers, W. Powell, H. V. Stanley, H. Thrift and many others figuring in the list in addition to the above.

The opening meeting of the 'Phil' this year was, perhaps, not so good as last year, though Mr. T. W. Russell's speech was far above the average.

Amongst the new members we notice F. Stevenson, M. Noyk, C. Spiro, F. N. Smartt, M. R. Richardson and G. W. Thompson. R. A. Oulton has joined the Historical, whose opening meeting was not so largely attended as usual. The speeches were scarcely up to the usual standard. By the way, a rumour has been current recently, and has gained a good deal of credence, that the societies are shortly to move into the new rooms in the Graduates' Memorial. Numerous loads of furniture have appeared, and a sudden burst of activity has broken out. While on this subject, it may be well to mention that at the opening meeting of the 'Phil,' the Vice-Chancellor of the University said that it was not likely that the societies would be amalgamated by the Board.

The Rugby Football Club has so far had a very successful season, and their doings in England will be watched with interest. The chief weakness is among the forwards, and several changes have already been made without much effect. High School is well represented on the 1st XV. by H. Thrift and H. J. Knox, but the latter has unfortunately been unable to play regularly. We are glad to see J. Purser on the 2nd XV., and he has already made a most successful *début* on the first. We also note that F. Smartt is playing half on the 3rd, and we hope he will take the criticisms in "T.C.D." to heart. That paper, by

the way, is in a very healthy condition and continues to flourish under the Editorship of an old Erasmian in F. V. Gordon.

The Association Football Club, after a very doubtful start, has suddenly jumped into prominence, and has a large number of new members, including W. W. Powell and R. H. Peake. We are pleased to note that C. Scaife has got a place on the first XI. of the Hockey Club, along with D. Dunlop, while G. M'Comas and H. J. Barton are on one of the league teams. The Harriers have taken a new lease of life under an old friend in F. Stevenson, and we are pleased to note several new members, amongst others J. D. Sands, who has already appeared prominently in some of the races.

Football Notes.

Oct. 3rd—High School *v.* Mountjoy School.

This match, the first of the season, was played at Clonturk Park, and resulted in a win for our opponents by 4 goals and 3 tries to nil. The whole team was in very bad training, especially the backs, the passing being wretched. Weldon and Blackham were about the best, while Smyth was the only forward who did anything.

Oct. 10th—High School *v.* Clontarf III.

Played at Belgrave Square. Our opponents were two or three short, which probably had something to do with the result — 2 goals 1 penalty goal to nil, in our favour. Blackham and Hegarty both played well, while Small and Stuart were the best of the forwards. Our whole team played much better than in the previous match, but the backs must learn to take their passes better.

Oct. 17th—High School *v.* St. Columba's College.

Played at Belgrave Square. This match, one of the most unfortunate we have played this season, resulted in our defeat by 5 goals 6 tries to nil. C. Blackham was badly hurt about half-time, and has been unable to play since. Hegarty was far the best of the backs; though Smyth, who took Blackham's place, tackled well and saved several scores.

Oct. 28th—High School *v.* St. Andrew's College.

We played this match at Donnybrook, and were again defeated by 5 goals and 6 tries to nil, in spite of the good play of our forwards, who were, if anything, better than our opponents; the backs, however, were very bad, with the exception of C. Smartt, who tackled splendidly. All the forwards played well, but the whole team will have to

tackle low, instead of round the neck, as most of them do now.

Oct. 30th—High School *v.* Lansdowne III.

Played at Lansdowne Road, and resulted in our defeat by 2 goals and 4 tries to nil. High School played like a beaten team from the beginning, and the only ones who did anything were some old boys who kindly played for us.

Some of the scores, however, were owing to the fact that we had only 3 threequarters.

Oct. 31st—High School *v.* Riverside.

Played at Belgrave Square. We were again defeated by 1 penalty goal and 4 tries to nil.

The forwards played rather better than usual, but none did anything special.

Nov. 11th—High School *v.* Blackrock College.

In this match, Purser, Ogden, Bradford, Richardson, M'Connell, and G. C. Duggan kindly played for us, and Purser scored our only try after a fine run with Ogden from our 25. Blackrock scored 4 goals and 2 tries, chiefly through our having only 6 forwards, and thus not being able to get the ball out properly. Weldon played very well, while Hegarty put in some splendid tackles.

Nov. 14—High School v Belvedere College.

We played this match at Belgrave Square, and won it by 2 goals and 1 try, to 1 dropped goal and 1 try. The whole team played well; the tackling of both backs and forwards being good. Clouston played extremely well and almost scored twice.

Nov. 17—High School v Monkstown III.

This match was played at Sandymount, and resulted after a very close match, in our defeat by 1 goal to nil. Bradford was about the best of our backs, while Duncan and McConnell in the forwards played a very good game.

We had hard luck in not scoring, as we worked down to their line several times, but none of our backs had enough pace to get away from our opponents.

High School v. Royal College of Science.

This match was played on Saturday, November 21st, on our ground. Our opponents were very heavy, but we had most of the game, and were unlucky only to draw by 1 try (Smartt) to 1 try. There was a very heavy wind blowing, which to some extent spoiled the game. Smartt's try for us was obtained in the last minute of the game, but he had got over earlier in the match, only to be given "touch in goal." All our forwards played well, while Hegarty,

Weldon, and Smartt were the best of the backs. Barbor as wing three-quarter did not do well. He should take his passes and tackle better, and not stop to be collared when he has the ball. Our new full back, W. Smyth, also played well.

High School v. St. Stephen's Green School.

This match was played at Merton on November 23rd, and resulted in a win for us by 1 goal (Smyth off his own try) and 1 try (Hegarty) to 1 goal. Besides the above mentioned, Stuart and Smartt played well, but Barbor was again weak. If our forwards had played harder, and followed up better, we would probably have obtained more scores.

The whole team has improved considerably since the beginning of the season, but there is still room for a far greater improvement. The chief cause of our numerous defeats has been the weak play of our backs, but after Christmas, with Blackham again in the team, they should do much better. They should keep closer together than they usually do, and thus make their passing more accurate.

The chief faults of our forwards are:—not following up quickly, and not playing earnestly enough.

Most of them should play far harder than they are accustomed to, and not be afraid to jump at a man for fear of

hurting him. Some of them take the game in a too easy-going, gentle style. They must keep more together in loose rushes, and get quicker into the scrums. Every member of the team ought to play as hard as he can to win, and if he does we are sure to win many matches.

Mistranslations.

Amusement is often caused in class by incongruous translations. A boy "plodding his weary way" through a foreign author often strikes upon an expression, his rendering of which is full of humour, unconscious to himself, but quickly appreciated by some of his listeners. Different classes, of course, according to their ages, seize upon different points. A Junior Grade boy perceives readily enough the enormous blunder his class-mate is making when he mistranslates "*triginta milia passuum*" and makes Cæsar say that the shortest passage from France to England is 30,000 miles. Most, however, of the following specimens come from Sixth form boys. We shall not spoil the amusement by giving the correct translations, which we trust our readers to discover for themselves. In some cases the meaning is near enough to the original, and the humour lies in the anticlimax of a misplaced word, as when Virgil's description of Charon "that grim ferryman" as *navita tristis* is rendered "a sad sailor," and his *inculta canities* as "uncultivated

grey hair." Similarly Helen described as *egregia coniux*, becomes in English "my remarkable wife." Sometimes a desperate attempt at a forgotten word lands the unwary into an impasse; hence *mensa tripes* becomes a "dish of tripe," *horrendum stridens* "with an awful stride," and *nec mora* "nay more." The confusion of proper with common nouns is the origin of the following strange results:—*Chlamydes Lucullus* (*chlamydes* is the first word in Horace's sentence and hence spelt with a capital letter, and is, moreover, a Greek word), "*Lucullus son of Chlamys*"; *Quinti progenies Arri*, "Harry's fifth son" (the youthful wag couldn't resist adding an h to Arrius), *geminosque Triones*, "the three twins" (a delightful bull, brought forth in all good faith). A false association of ideas is also responsible for many stumbles:—*pullum sustulit* "he raised a fowl"; *provisæ fruges*, "preserved fruits"; *expediunt calidos latices*, "they brought up the hotwater"; *poscere fata tempus*, "to ask the fates the time." Silvia's tame deer we are told by Virgil was *assueta mensæ herili*, but did the poet dream that it was "accustomed to sit at its mistress' table"? Or when Aeneas sacrificed the bulls, was it intended by *Quattuor hic validos nigrantes terga iuvencos constituit* that "he laid four strong black bulls on their backs"? Was it a reminiscence of the drill-yard which called up the following picture of the shades of the blest in Elysium: *pars plaudunt choreas*

pedibus, "some beat time with their feet"? But who will fathom the awful indignity that Pyrrhus put upon the aged king of Troy, when before he slew him, "he combed his hair with his left hand," *implicuitque comam laeva*? These translations are the outcome of serious minds; the boy who tries to be funny rarely, if ever, scales such dizzy heights.

Wanted—a Boy.

"Wanted—a boy." How often we
These common little words may see.
Wanted for business to be done,
Wanted for everything under the sun.
For all that men to-day can do,
To-morrow boys will be doing too;
For soon the time is coming when
"Our Boys" must take the place of men.

Wanted—the world wants boys to-day;
And offers all it has for pay—
Honour, position, wealth, and fame,
A useful life, a deathless name.
Boys—to shape the paths for men,
Boys—to guide the plough and pen,
Boys—to advance the tasks begun,
For the world's great work is never done.

The world is waiting to employ
Not merely one, but every boy
Whose heart and head are proven true
To the work his hand shall find to do.
Industrious, faithful, earnest, kind;
To good awake, to evil blind!
An honest heart without alloy—
The world is watching for that boy.

Christmas Carols.

Be we mery in this fêste
In quo Saluator natus est.

In Bethleem that noble place,
As by prophesy sayd it was,
Of the vyrgyn Mary, full of grace
Saluator mundi natus est.

Be we mery, etc.

(*Bibliographical Miscellanies—Kele's Christmas Carolles*).

The Christmas carol has indeed fallen on evil days, and few are the places outside the churches where its old-world echoes ring. I do not know if, even in the churches, the old words hold their own in any degree. The old tunes, I suppose, are past praying for, as probably more fashionable settings have smothered and disguised their charming quaintness.

It is certain, however, that, in these islands, at least, the carol bulks very small in the social customs of our private life. As regards the carol's connection with literature now-a-days I will not say anything, as it would be outside the purview of this article—beyond this, that I cannot call to mind any work of our modern poets in this field. There may, of course, be isolated specimens of good Christmas verse; but the festival has fallen away from its former interest and importance socially, and no longer causes the young lions amongst the nation's bards—major or minor—to indulge in their "gentle roaring" in connection with it.

But I am glad to say that the carol

is not yet extinct, nor the public carol singing either, for year by year we notice a decided, if slight, increase in the parties of carol singers that take their stand in our suburbs and in the interest of some charity or other pour forth their concord of sweet sounds in very excellent fashion.

In the English midlands, in Lancashire, Cornwall and Devon, carol-singing still holds a footing. In Wales, as is to be expected from that land of excellent choirs, the practice still obtains; though the gallant little Principality has now no champion like stout David Jones, who flourished early in last century, and who, for fifty-three successive years, sang at the church at Rhuddlan a new carol of his own composing every Christmas.

The origin of the word "carol" itself is said to be *cantare*, to sing, and *rola* an interjection of joy. The word carol generally implied dancing as well as singing (a not unusual combination in early religious celebrations), of a joyous character; and, as Christmas was the great festival of the year, the carol became associated principally with that time.

The question of the antiquity of the carol is too large to be dealt with here, and perhaps not of sufficient general interest. I may state, however, that there is a Breton song, said to be of the fifth century, arranged as a dialogue between a Druid and a scholar, which is stated to have a great resemblance

to the carol "In those Twelve Days." The latter runs thus:—

"In those twelve days, and in those twelve days,
let us be glad,
For God of his power hath all things made,
What is that which is but one?
We have but one God alone,
In heaven above sits on His throne."

The next verse begins, "What are they which are but two?" (Two Testaments), and so on to the numeral twelve in the last verse, which is represented, of course, by the twelve apostles. After each verse the refrain "And in those, etc," was repeated.

In the reign of King John the Christmas customs were well kept up, and giving of gifts (and receiving them, too, you may be sure), feasting, dancing and singing were the order of the day. There was, however, a little incident, introduced by his stern and somewhat lawless barons, into his Christmas junketings in the year 1214, which he kept at Worcester, that the tyrant would have well dispensed with, from his point of view. On this occasion the barons demanded that their petitions, or rather demands, should be granted forthwith or they would take the field against him; and the end of this historic agitation was the Magna Charta. But let us return to our subject.

That John encouraged the practice of singing carols is evident from the fact that we read that the clerks who sang "Christus Vincit" before him on Christmas Day in 1201, had 25s. for their trouble. From the countenance

the custom had received, it gradually spread further than court circles, and became general amongst the people. I give below two of the six verses (the first and last) of a carol of the century above referred to. I cannot give a more exact date. The antique wording is a little bit of a stumbling-block to the ordinary reader, so that he is likely to cry *quantum suff.* very soon.

"Seignors, ore entendez à nus,
De loinz sumes venuz à vous,
Pur quere noël;
Car l'em nus dit que en cest hostel,
Soleit teni sa feste anuel,
Ahi, cest jur.
Deu doint à tuz icels joie d'amurs,
Qui à danz noël ferunt honors!

Seignors, jo vus di par noël,
E par li sires de cest hostel,
Car bevez ben;
E jo primes beverai le men,
E pois après chescon le soen,
Par mon conseil;
Si jo vus di trestoz, 'Wesseyll!'
Dehaiz eit qui ne dirra, 'Drincheyll!'"

(Douce's Illustration of Shakespeare—MS., Reg. 16 E. VIII).

There is another fifteenth century carol of some interest, if only for the curious English it contains. It is a welcome to Yule:—

"Welcū yole in good array,
In worship of ye holiday,"

so it commences, then it proceeds to welcome everybody and most things; at least twenty of its twenty-two lines begin with "Welcū"—

"Welcū be ye mare myld,
Welcū yole for eur & ay,"

then later on—

"Welcū children euechone
Welcū thomas, martr, all on,
Welcū be ye lord and lady
Welcū be ye all yis cūpane."
(Douce MS., 302).

The next carol I shall notice is of much more general interest, and its lyrical charm immediately strikes one. It is of the time of Henry VI., and describes the contest for supremacy between Holly and Ivy (representing man and woman). I have altered the spelling in this and the preceding quotation slightly to make them more intelligible, but only slightly. They practically stand as they were sung. I have, however, left in the letter "u" (for "v") in "iuy" (ivy) as written. The refrain of these old songs is generally printed at the very beginning, and then only shortly indicated afterwards:—

"Nay iuy, nay, hyt shall not be I wys,
Let holy hafe ye maystry as ye maner ys.
Holy stond in ye hall fayre to behold,
Iuy stond wt out ye dore, she ys ful sore a cold.
Nay iuy, etc.

Holy and hys mery men they dawnsyn & they syng
Iuy and her maydenys they wepyn & they wryng.
Nay," etc.

Then Holly's berries "red as any rose" are vaunted while poor Ivy, the weaker and inferior vessel, has "berys as blake as any slo" only fit for the "oule" (owl) to eat. Then Holly boasts of all his birds, while the disconsolate Ivy is reminded that the ill-omened denizen of wild ruins is all the "fayre flock" she can boast of, in this connection:

Holy hath byrdys a ful fayre flok
The nyghtyngale ye perpynguy, ye gayntyl lauyrok
Nay, etc.

Gode iuy what byrdys ast yu?
Non but ye howlat that kreye, how how.
Nay iuy nay hyt shall not," etc.
(Harln. MS., 5396).

The "gentle laverock" above mentioned is not easily discerned under its antique spelling.

A variant of the above seems to be amongst us still; I remember as a child that my nurse (Irish) used to sing—or rather recite—how

"Holly and Ivy went to the wood,
Holly brought Ivy home by the hood."

I cannot recollect any more verses of this version, but my readers may. It is of curious interest to think that this should be preserved to us through oral tradition for hundreds of years, and apparently not materially changed, as in the only verse I know a contest takes place between the pair, as in the original. I regret I have no book at hand, such as Halliwell's "Popular Rhymes and Nursery Tales," that would elucidate the matter.

The item, 40s. paid to the children of the chapel for their rendering "Gloria in excelsis" before the good king Henry VII., shows that the custom still found favour in high places. £1 to Newark (whoever he may be) for "making a song" seems fairly reasonable, but not excessive, payment to the poet, even considering the purchasing value of the money at the time. But then Mr. Newark may not have been

a poet by profession, but perchance dropped into poetry "promiscus like," as Mr. Wegg, of happy memory, was wont to do.

Indeed, there is no absolute certainty that Mr. Newark was not the court dustman, as that functionary (since fallen from his high estate) appears of varied accomplishments and some importance in the old days. In the list of gifts presented to Queen Elizabeth at this festive season, "Two bolts of cambric" is the offering of Smyth, the dustman! This gentleman appears to have been a person of some taste and pretensions, and with a soul above microbes; but I forget—such pests were not invented then.

As Henry VIII. and his children were all musicians, carol singing received a great impulse in his reign, especially after the Reformation had swept away the Latin hymns. Bluff King Hal's Christmas doings during his life would fill a volume by themselves, as he loved festivals and splendour. The following are extracts from carols of the time:—

Nowell, O nowell, nowell, nowell.

Who ys there that syngeth so nowell, nowell?
I am here, syre Cristsmasse;
Well, come my lord St Crstemasse,
Welcome to vs all bothe more and lasse,
Come ner, nowell.
Bevvex bien par tutte la company,
Make gode chere and be ryght mery,
And syng wt vs now joyfully.

Nowell.

(Additional MS. 5665).

T. P. STUART.
(To be concluded).

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The Board of Governors	...	5	0 0
Mr. Wilkins	...	2	0 0
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„ „ Old Boys	...	0	6 0
Sale of Tickets	...	4	19 9
Gate	...	1	18 0
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Advertisements in Programme	...	2	10 0
	£35	11	7

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Sergeant	...	0	5 0
Hire of Sacks	...	0	4 6
Refreshments	...	2	9 4
Pins, Wool and Eggs	...	0	2 0
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Passed Entrance Exam.—S. Bradford, C. S. Burrows, G. T. Crozier, M. Noyk, R. A. Oulton, M. R. Richardson, F. N. Smartt, J. H. Stanton, J. L. S. Smylie.

Junior Exhibitions—J. C. Duncan, 1st; C. Spiro, 2nd; G. C. Duggan, 7th; J. H. Leland, 12th.

Entrance Prizes—Greek Verse—1st, J. H. Leland; 2nd, J. C. Duncan.

Latin Verse—2nd, J. H. Leland.

English Literature—1st, G. C. Duggan; 2nd, J. H. Leland.

French—2nd, G. C. Duggan.

Modern History and Geography—2nd, G. C. Duggan.

Hebrew—1st, M. Noyk.

Senior Moderatorship in Classics—N. B. White, 3rd.

Senior Moderatorship in Logics and Ethics—N. B. White, 2nd.

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Electrical Engineering, H. W. Stephenson, G. A. Joynt.

Prize in Geology—G. A. Joynt.

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Junior Freshmen—Modern History—1st Honors, P. Mandeville, 1st; G. M'Comas, 3rd; R. G. Stanley, 5th.

Mathematics—1st Honors, J. Purser.

Classics—2nd Honors—J. Purser, O. V. Burrows.

Catechetical Prize—P. Mandeville.

Passed Term Exam.—C. E. Drennan.

Senior Freshmen—Mathematics—1st Honors, J. L. Stephenson, 1st; H. Thrift. *Michael Roberts Prize*—J. L. Stephenson.

Classics—1st Honors, W. W. Powell, 3rd.

English Literature—1st Honors, W. W. Powell; 2nd Honors, T. J. North-Bomford.

Senior Exhibition—J. L. I. Stephenson.

Little Go—1st Class, H. Thrift, J. L. Stephenson, T. J. N. Bomford, F. Stevenson.

Passed—H. J. C. Barton, C. C. W. Duggan, H. V. Stanley.

Notices.

The next number of *The Erasmian* will appear towards the end of March. All communications should reach the Editor before the 10th of that month.

As our next number will close the volume, we hope subscribers will send their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, G. G. Duggan, at the school without delay.

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