

Liverpool Institute Schools' Magazine.

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OUR Readers will see that this month we return to our original size, as it was found that the enlargement had not met with the success which we had anticipated. We should be glad if both schools would unite to support this undertaking, and so enable it to become a permanent institution. We beg to tender our thanks to several of the Masters for their valuable assistance in selling the last number, and also the delegates appointed in the various classes.

We regret that we have not received as many contributions for this number, and should be glad of *original* articles from any one in either school. Correspondence is also invited on any topic.

L. I. L. D. S.

A MEETING of the above Society was held on Tuesday Evening, January 18th, 1887, Mr. EWART, the Vice-President, in the chair.

The Secretary read the rules of the society, also the minutes of the last meeting; after which S. R. JENKINS asked a question with reference to the extension of the session of the Society owing to the adoption of the term system.

C. LUMGAIR and A. J. EWART on being proposed by R. BURN and B. A. RICHMOND were elected members of the Society.

H. R. ARMSTRONG then proceeded to read his paper on "Imperial Federation." He showed the increase of our Colonial Empires, and the great need of mutual action for defence in case of a great war. He also pointed out the increased trade and commerce with the Colonies, and consequent need of protection of this trade by military and naval action. He gave some plans for the Federation, especially noticing that of each Colony sending a High Commissioner to consult on Foreign Policy.

R. BURN in some criticisms drew attention to the great need of action in drawing the Colonies closer together.

Mr. EWART thought that the scheme propounded was very good in theory, but useless in practice, and that the Colonies would not tolerate any interference from home authorities. He said that even if they should secede in a friendly manner they would not harm the old country.

JENKINS, MILLARD, LONG, BARKER, and PHILLIPS offered a few remarks, after which ARMSTRONG made his reply. The proceedings then terminated in the usual manner.

PICTON CASTLE.

THIS Ancient Castle stands in a Wood near Milford Haven, within three miles of Haverfordwest. Picton Castle was a fortified residence in the reign of William Rufus, from that time to the present day it has been tenanted by a line of possessors, all of whom can trace their connexion with the Norman Ancestor, William de Picton, a Knight who came into Pembrokeshire with Arnulf de Montgomery, and among his descendants may be numbered the Pictons of Royston, in the same county, the ancestors of the gallant Sir Thomas Picton, who fell at Waterloo and now rests in Westminster Abbey. Sir Richard Phillips garrisoned Picton Castle on behalf of King Charles I. during the civil war. It sustained a long siege, and would not have surrendered when it did but for the following circumstance. In the lower storey of one of the bastions was the nursery, at the small window of which a maidservant was standing with Sir Erasmus Phillips (then an infant) in her arms, when a trooper of the Parliamentary forces approached it on horseback with a flag of truce and a letter, to receive which, the girl opened the window, and while she stretched forwards the soldier, lifting himself on his stirrups, snatched the child from her arms and rode with him into the camp. A message was then forwarded to the Governor of the garrison informing him that unless the castle was immediately surrendered, the child would be put to

death. On this the garrison yielded. It is said that the Parliamentary General was so touched by the loyalty of Sir Richard Phillips, and the stratagem by which it had been compelled to surrender, that he gave orders that Picton Castle should not be demolished, as were the other fortresses in Pembrokeshire. It appears to have been an oblong building flanked by six large bastions, three on each side, with two smaller bastions on the east side between which was a grand portcullised doorway. The castle was moated round and approached by a drawbridge.

THE CASTLE GHOST.

A STORY IN FOUR CHAPTERS.

CHAPTER III.

HERE was a find, but just as they had made it they were assailed by such an indescribable chorus of shrieks, wailings, yells and groans, that they took to their heels and made for the door by which they had entered the castle. But they very soon ran against another wall, which they didn't remember to have passed, and though at last they found a low passage, it went in the opposite direction to the entrance. In fact they were lost in the haunted castle, which was not a very pleasing prospect.

At that moment the sound of distant pealing bells was borne upon the air, and just managed to reach our adventurers in their dungeon.

"A merry Christmas to you," said Green, with a slight touch of sarcasm. "Yes," replied Brown, "this looks like a *very* merry Christmas; did you bring the plum-pudding with you?" "Oh, hang it," said White, starting up; "I'm not going to stand this any longer, if we cannot get out of it one way let's try another; we must open the secret door by hook or by crook." Anything was better than inaction, so the party moved off slowly and cautiously towards the secret door, which they re-discovered with some difficulty—as they had half expected the same ghostly welcome was again extended to them, and if they had had anything but iron nerves, they certainly would not have been able to stand it. The noises, which seemed to come from some way off, sounded half smothered, the next moment a wild, unmeaning laugh, as of some gibbering idiot, would startle their senses, and this would be succeeded by low moans of anguish as of some fiend suffering unutterable torture.

The door was no child's play; it was solid masonry, and it would have been idle to have attempted to force it. What was to be done? Suddenly an idea occurred to Green—the blasting powder! "Yes," said White, "but if we blow up the door we may blow up ourselves also." "We must risk that," replied Green, "we can't stay here all night." So the charge was prepared and placed in position, though Brown, too, protested that he always wanted to

end his life in *peace* and not in *pieces*. All being ready, the trio retired along the passage, and as far away as possible, Green laying the train as they went. When they had reached the extreme end of the passage he applied a match to the powder, which after a little reluctance caught fire and spread round the corner with astonishing rapidity.

Another moment and a tremendous explosion took place, deafening in sound and seeming to shake the castle to its very foundations. They heard the sound of walls falling and stones descending in showers, and it was some time before silence ensued. Our heroes (for such they felt themselves) then ventured from their retreat. At first they could not see for the dust, but when this cleared and they were able to reach where the door had been, they found that not only had this disappeared but a considerable portion of the walls also; it was only the extreme thickness of the masonry and foundations which had prevented that portion of the castle from being levelled to the ground.

END OF CHAPTER III.

CHAPTER IV.

On the other side of the doorway the first objects the party saw a few yards distant were three men lying apparently lifeless upon the ground. Upon raising them it was seen that they were still living, though badly injured by the effects of the explosion. When dressing their wounds as well as was possible by the flickering light of the lantern, our heroes noted that all the men were of the seafaring type, with faces bronzed and hardened by exposure to the elements. Leaving Brown to keep watch over the three men, who were still senseless, Green and White began to descend a winding staircase, the approach to which they found close to the spot where they were standing. They went down lower and lower till it seemed as if they would never come to the end, and when at last they did reach the bottom, a remarkable sight met their eyes:—a long, low room, full of all kinds of contraband goods, kegs of rum and other spirits, silks, tea, tobacco, and other articles too numerous to mention. It was in fact a veritable smugglers' den. On examining the far end of the room they found a small door, opening into a passage, at the other end of which was another door, which was strongly bolted and barred on the inside. Undoing the fastenings they opened the door and found themselves in the fresh air under the midnight sky, and within a few yards of where they stood flowed the river.

Green and White in the excitement of their search had quite forgotten Brown, when it suddenly occurred to them that they ought to return and relieve him of his solitary guard. They retraced their steps as quickly as possible and reached the top of the staircase in the nick of time, for they found Brown engaged in a desperate struggle with one of the outlaws, who had recovered consciousness and attacked him without warning. Of course he was quickly overpowered and secured, and as the two other smugglers shewed signs of returning to a conscious state, it was thought desirable to bind them before they were strong enough to resist.

My story is nearly told.

White being despatched for the police, the whole force of Castleton, consisting of *three* constables, turned out. They soon arrived on the scene, and soon the three desperadoes were safely lodged in Castleton.

It transpired that the Customs Authorities had long been certain of the existence of some Smugglers' stronghold, but had never been able to find it:—it was so skilfully hidden and was defended so successfully by the ghostly sounds, which were the combined production of the Smugglers. They of course knew the legend like their fathers before them, and had turned their knowledge to good (or bad) account.

In due course they were brought to trial, convicted, and condemned to penal servitude, and the reward of £100 which had been offered by the authorities for their arrest was paid over to Brown, Green and White who, I think, you will admit thoroughly deserved it.

Many years have passed since then, but though they are all old men now, they have never spent the first hours of another Christmas morning in such an adventure as that by which they earned the reputation of having successfully laid the "CASTLE GHOST."

FINIS.

AN OLD HOMER.

WHILE I was endeavouring to puzzle it out I heard—no I am wrong, I could *hear* nothing, I merely *saw* another person enter the room. He also was a student, though his face bore no signs of study; but though it lacked this, yet the tokens of genius were not wanting: he indeed seemed to have talent innate, while the one whom I had previously observed seemed to have only obtained it at the cost of great and severe mental toil.

Brilliant as the new comer looked I did not like his face, it had a certain though momentary expression every now and then which made me uneasy when I looked at him.

They shook hands and then seated themselves opposite each other.

A casual observer would have said that they were both studying, but I was not a casual observer, I was gazing at the scene before me with a strange and unnatural sense of dread, but yet I was fascinated and therefore observed closely.

I indeed saw that the first student was studying, that could not be doubted, but the second was merely idling. It is true he had a book open before him, and used the large dictionary alternately with his companion, but I noticed that his eyes wandered restlessly round the room, now on the careworn face before him, now on my old book, now on the candles, and lastly and for the most part on the dark cupboard.

He also devoted a considerable amount of attention to one of his pockets, in which he seemed to have something which caused him great anxiety.

Altogether he was restless, and I could not understand him.

My opinion at the time was that they were both preparing for some examination, and that while this served as an incentive to the one, it acted as an irresistible distraction to the other; I say this was my opinion at the time, I have considerably modified the latter part of it since.

The new comer's next proceeding was to borrow his friend's Homer to look at some difference in the text I suppose, and in giving it back I noticed he had pricked his finger as I had done; he, however, did not notice it, and soon resumed his uneasy condition.

At length he seemed able to bear it no longer, and rose with alacrity, darting a quick glance at his companion to whom he next spoke.

I as usual could hear nothing of what he said, but he evidently asked a question, as the other replied with a nod.

Having received this token of assent he went towards the little dark cupboard, and after fumbling some time with a key opened its doors. He produced two glass goblets, and placing them on a stand projecting from the cupboard, he proceeded to fill them with some dark wine, presumably claret. The other student, still deeply buried in my Homer, did not see this, neither did he see a further action of his friend's which filled me with a sickening fear.

Just as he finished pouring out the wine I again noticed that delicious odour which I had experienced a short time before, and looking more closely at him, I saw that he pulled a small phial from his pocket, and rapidly uncorking it he poured some into one of the glasses, and put the bottle back into his pocket with the same celerity with which he had taken it therefrom.

He then went to the table, and setting one glass (containing the unknown liquid) before his companion, in which act he spilt a large portion over his hand which was shaking violently, he took the other to his own side of the table and sat down.

To be Continued.

THE BLUE ROBBER OF THE PINK MOUNTAIN.

CHAPTER II.

THE morning was breaking over the mountain and valley, a fact which we have previously observed, and which you may be tired of hearing. We think the human mind is generally reluctant to receive information, and greedy of *novelty* for which

reason we had to repeat, but it will give you intense gratification to know that the mountain was casting a long huge shadow over the valley. The rocks, which formed the peak, were really pink, (see the title—any infringement of this title will be prosecuted as the law directs, since it is patented and entered at Stationers' Hall. Trespassers beware! No entrance except on business. It is forbidden to speak to the man at the wheel. No thoroughfare, road up and closed for repairs. Steam roller at work. Spring guns and man traps)—more pink than ever, reminding us of the lines of Shakespere, in the boiling of the shrimp:—

Roses are red, violets blue,
Pinks are pretty, and so are you.

Fair reader—all readers are fair, except they have dark hair and eyes. This is a compliment for which we charge extra. Great reduction on taking quantities. Fair reader, the rocks which formed the peak cast a monstrous shadow in the morning light; so that until you lifted up your eyes, you might fancy small stones to be huge boulders. And now we beg your most particular and undivided attention to the fact we are about to disclose. Along the edge of the shadow, shown in the valley, rolled an enormous moving shadow some quarter-of-a-mile long, shooting out into the valley. Hush! don't speak! don't look! don't breathe! don't move! shut your eyes, open your mouth; It's the robber walking along the top; not that he was a quarter-of-a-mile long, but coming events cast their shadows before, except your coat tails which cast their shadows behind. It sped along the valley with terrific velocity, like a patch of greased lightning, or a tart down a school boy's throat, or a cat with a mop after it, or a ball from an 81-ton gun, or a bank holiday maker to catch the last train, or a Yankee getting up a tree with a rattlesnake after him, or a boy when he has kicked at a door, or an express train making up for lost time, or——, but we do not mean to supply you with similes for nothing, and as you see we keep a stock ready, new, ready-made and second-hand, apply at the second door round the corner, ring the top right-hand bell, and knock twice, don't enter before the door opens, knock the ashes out of your pipe, wipe your feet carefully on the mat, blow your nose, put your umbrella on the stand, deposit your hat on the table, walk up to the second floor back room, and humbly crave admittance. Perhaps you will be attended to, but we make no promises, for promises are like pie-crust only to be broken. With these broken observations, we again request you to follow in your mind's eye in the glorious dawn of an early morn, the fleeting shadow of the blue robber scurrying majestically along the edge of the pink mountain. Price 1d. plain, 2d. coloured, also to be had from the same publishers the Valley, 1d. coloured, 2d. plain; of course it's plain because it's a valley. Did you ever see a valley not plain? How can we have a green valley? seeing it must be coloured green and then it could not be plain. Then it would not be a valley. We feel this such a logical difficulty that we are half inclined to give up the valley altogether. But if you're agreeable we should recommend you to wrap a wet towel round your head, brew a pot of strong

green tea, sit up all night till the middle of next week, and think it out like a man. You can send us the answer when you know it, carefully prepaid; it shall receive every attention, "and so shall you," as the man said, when he put his visitor under the pump in the back yard. But these are trifles, let us keep to the robber. We can assure you this will be a rattling tale, and so tremendous that if you're not afraid you'd better get six copies to read at once. So no more for the present.

SCHOOL NEWS.

MR. EWART kindly presided over a meeting held in his room, on Thursday, 3rd February, for the purpose of electing the Officers of the Cricket Club. Representatives appeared from both schools.

The following officers were elected:—

Hon. Sec.—B. A. RICHMOND.

Captain—L. BOSTOCK.

Hon. Treas.—H. E. WOODGATE

Sub-Captain—A. KER.

Committee—

F. RICHMOND,

W. ROBSON,

C. V. H. MILLARD,

J. J. WILLIAMS.

The subscription was fixed at 2/6, and the meeting then terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Ewart.

It is hoped that both schools will support the club, so that we may have a successful season.

O. W. Owen has obtained an open scholarship of St. John's Cambridge, at the value of £50 per annum.

FOOTBALL.

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE *versus* WALLASEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—This match was played on Wednesday, the 26th January, at Sefton Park, and resulted in a defeat for the home team by two goals two tries to nil. Luya obtained the four tries, and the Institute turned up three men short.

LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE *versus* PARKFIELD SCHOOL.—The match was played until a little after half time when it had to be postponed on account of the rain, just as the home team were on the point of scoring. The Parkfield obtained a goal from a try obtained by Hilton. For the Institute Robson played very well, as did all the team.