

THE  
Oldham Hulmeian.



· FIDE · SED · CUI · VIDE ·

# "The Oldham Hulmeian."

Vol. V. No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1901.

Price 6d.

## School Notes.

The following New Boys have been admitted during the Term:—

- Form I. —Ashton, John.  
Gilliat, R. V.  
Rye, Ed.  
Whittaker, E. N.
- Form II. —Jackson, W. B.  
Needham, F. L.  
Stopford, J.
- Form III. Beta —Ainley, P.  
Ashton, H.  
Broadbent, P.  
Chetwynd, G. H.  
Harrison, F.  
Starkie, E.  
Wilkinson, R. B.  
Wolfenden, F.
- Form III. Alpha—Bagot, H. B.  
Hardern, F.  
Hassall, H.  
Mathew, J.  
Taylor, P.
- Form IV. —Knott, H. W.

## General Notes.

Our most sincere thanks are due to Mrs. C. E. Lees for the splendid gift to the School which was announced at the Speech Day. Mrs. Lees has, we were then told, caused a sum of £3,000 to be invested, and the interest which accrues from it is to be equally divided between the Hulme Boys' and the Hulme Girls' Schools, Oldham, to assist scholars after leaving the Schools to proceed to institutions of higher education. We heartily thank Mrs. Lees, and hope that such a splendid example may stir up others of our townspeople to similar acts of generosity.



We have not yet done with our thanks to Miss D. Lees, our new Governor. Only a few years ago Miss Lees, at great expense, had our playing field drained, levelled, and laid. Finding that this ground was still too small for two full-sized football fields without trespassing upon the cricket pitch, Miss Lees has now still further extended her generosity, and has purchased a strip of land forty

yards wide reaching the whole length of the field on the south side. This is to be added to our present field, and a splendid addition it will be.



We are very glad to be able to announce that an Old Boys' Association is about to be started. For some time past several of the Old Boys have been anxious that such a society should be formed, so that they might still be in touch with what is occurring at school at the present time. It is unnecessary here to recapitulate the advantages to both the old boys themselves and to those who are at present qualifying for that distinction. Further information will be found on another page.



We were very sorry to lose Mr. White from the staff of masters at the middle of the term. Mr. White, however, has been appointed by the Government as District Organising Inspector to the Schools at the Concentration Camps in the Transvaal. Mr. White sailed on November 7th, and took with him the heartiest good wishes of the whole school for his future welfare and success.



Our new science master arrived at the beginning of the term. He is Mr. J. A. Harrison, B.Sc. (Lond.), First Class Honours in Chemistry and Geology.



The School will break up for the Christmas holidays on Thursday, December 19th, and will re-assemble on Tuesday, January 14th, 1902.

## Football.

1ST XI. v. MACCLESFIELD.—At Macclesfield. This was the first match of the season, and the School team was not yet settled. The team might have been stronger had it not been for the lack of spirit shown by a few boys who would rather play for another team than for "School." As it was, we arrived at Macclesfield with a weak team, and had to play one short through the non-arrival of O. Jackson. In the first half we made many good attempts to score, but the home defence proved much too strong for our forwards, and by half-time the score was 2—0 against us. In the second half School played with much more vigour, the two Middletons and Wood especially

distinguishing themselves in their efforts at defence. Shortly afterwards Broomhead registered a goal for School, but unfortunately Macclesfield retaliated by adding another two goals to their score, and the game ended in a defeat of 4—1.



1ST XI. v. WARRINGTON.—At Warrington. Unfortunately in this match the School team was without the support of the two Middletons, Wood, and Bentley, so a very weak team, consisting of many reserves, arrived at Warrington to represent School. Luck was again against us, for we were a second time one player short. At the very commencement Warrington scored twice in quick succession, and before half-time, in spite of all our efforts at defence, had piled up five goals to their credit. In the second half, having the wind in our favour, we redoubled our efforts, but the Warrington men were altogether too big for us. However, School still persevered, and as a result Broomhead soon afterwards scored for School. After this reverse the home team added two more goals to their score, but shortly before time Broomhead again scored for School. There was no further score, and the game ended in a victory for Warrington by 7—2.



1ST XI. v. DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.—At home. This was the first match played on the "home" ground. Our opponents had the help of two masters, while we were strengthened by the support of Mr. Pardoe. School went away with a rush, and a good shot from Starkie gave us the lead. Our opponents redoubled their efforts, and soon afterwards equalised. At half-time the score was 1—1. Shortly after re-commencing, Wood, with a splendid shot, obtained the lead for School. Very even play followed, but our opponents again equalised. We then set to work to obtain the winning goal, which was secured by Whitehead a few minutes before time. Result: School 3, Deaf and Dumb Institute 2.



1ST XI. v. BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—At Bury. This match was played on a Wednesday afternoon, and it was surprising how many boys were willing to play. In spite of this, for a third time, School were put to a great disadvantage, for the two Middletons did not put in an appearance. From the very commencement School played a losing game, and very little resistance was offered to the Bury "giants." By half-time our opponents had scored six goals against us. In the second half things did not improve, and the home team kept steadily increasing that score. The School forwards repeatedly tried to break through the home defence, and at last were rewarded by a goal scored by O. Jackson. This was the only point scored by

School, and the game ended in a defeat to the tune of 12—1. We hope to give them a better game when they visit us next term.



1ST XI. v. MANCHESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL 2ND.—At home. School lost the toss and had to play against the wind. Immediately after the start the home forwards took the leather into the visitors' half, but failed to score. A second effort, however, gave us the lead, for West beat the visitors' defence with a good shot from the wing. Shortly before half-time the visitors scored their first goal, but West came to our aid and scored another goal for School. At half-time the score was 2—1 in our favour. In the second half the visitors showed up very poorly, their defence being broken five times by West, Ormerod (twice), Whitehead, and Broomhead, while they only managed to score twice. The game resulted in a victory for School by 7—3.



1ST XI. v. OLD BOYS.—At home. This match was to have been played on November 16th, but owing to the dense fog it had to be postponed to the 30th. The School team was strengthened by the help of Mr. Pardoe and Mr. Patterson, while the Old Boys brought a strong yet representative team, under the captaincy of Hurst (senior). In the first half School played very hard, and kept the ball well in the visitors' half. For a long time neither side scored, but a good piece of play by the home forwards ended in Middleton scoring for School. Even play followed, and at half-time there was no further score. On resuming School pressed heavily. Scrambling play now ensued in front of the visitors' goal, resulting in a goal scored by Platt. This was the last point secured by School, for Hurst, who had been playing back, now came forward and carried everything before him. By sheer weight the visitors rushed our defence, and scored twice in quick succession. After this the visitors steadily increased their score, and before the whistle blew had nine goals to their credit. But for the splendid defence of our goal-keeper, Middleton (junior) and Mr. Pardoe, the score would have been much higher.

C. H. B.

---

## Cricket.

---

The cricket match against Hulme Grammar School, Manchester, reported in our last issue, ought to have been headed 1st XI. against Hulme Grammar School, Manchester, 2nd XI.

## The Sports.

Although perhaps a more complete list of events may be found on our programme of the Sports for the year of the Coronation, it was decided, after some consideration, to confine the year's contests to the School grounds, and consequently we had no bicycle or swimming races. All our hopes were therefore centred upon July 26th, 1901, and weather prophets on the morning of that day found ready listeners. The heavens were scanned with searching glances, and in their turn seemed disposed rather to make sport of anxious mortals than to permit our sports. Alternate fits of hope and despair overcame us. After a morning of showers and doubt came a noon of gloom and despair. Amid such torrents, of course, "sports" were out of the question. Then when the bitterness of the death of our hopes was past, and all in calm fortitude were resigned to the worst—the rain ceased absolutely. The flickering flame of hope revived once more only to be quenched by a tantalising drizzle. To be or not to be, that *was* the question, *whether*—but never mind. Although opinions were divided, although some bold spirits declared themselves ready to play their part through lightning and tempest, earthquake and deluge, whilst others cautioned delay and even hinted at postponement, with all its attendant doubt, trouble, worry, and expense—at last a bold start was made, when, of course, fickle Fortune yielded, and the rain held off during the various contests. There were a goodly number of entries, including some of the best athletes in the school. There were some very close races. The prizes were very kindly distributed by Miss Clark, Head Mistress of the Hulme Grammar School for Girls. The Senior Championship was won by the then school captain, S. L. Thompson, with a total aggregate of 22 points. This was a very fine performance indeed. The Junior Championship was won by J. West with an aggregate of 14 points. This also was a meritorious performance. It may here be stated that both of the winners were the ones whom the boys thought would win. We will now pass on to the programme of events. The Band of the Oldham Bluecoat School played selections of music during the afternoon, which were greatly appreciated.

The first event down for decision was throwing the cricket ball (under 12). This was won by J. Mellor.

Next came throwing the ball (under 14). This was easily won by J. West. The distance thrown was 210ft. 6in.—a very good throw. The second prize was won by J. Whitehead.

Then came the open throwing the ball. This was won by Thompson with a very fine throw of 258ft. 6in.

The long jump (under 14) was won by Ormrod.  
The long jump (open) was won by Thompson.  
The high jump (under 14) was won by J. West.  
Fort was second.

The high jump (open) was won by Thompson.  
Broomhead was second.

The 100 yards (under 14) was won by Ormrod after a very exciting race. Indeed, so close was this that many people thought West was second instead of Pressley.

The 100 yards (under 14) was won by Butterworth after a very close race.

The 100 yards (open) was one of the most exciting races of the day. Thompson got away with a fine start, with Broomhead close behind him. Then Broomhead got up to him and eventually passed him, thus winning a most exciting race. It may be stated Broomhead ran the race in the very fair time of 11secs.

The quarter-mile (open) was won by Lowe. Pressley was second and Ormrod third.

The spring board jump (under 14) was won by Fort. West was second. The height was 5ft. 3in.

The spring board jump (open), which resulted in a tie between Thompson and Broomhead, was a most exciting contest. First one and then the other would fail to jump, but eventually both brought down the bar at the same limit.

The hurdles were won by Thompson.

The half-mile (under 14) was won by Griffiths (6yds.) after a good race. Pressley (24yds.) was second, and West (scratch) third.

The one mile handicap (over 14) was won by A. Rothwell (84yds.) after an exciting race. He did not seem very much exhausted after his mile as did some of the others. V. Mallalieu (180yds.) was second, and G. Stott (210yds.) came in third.

The Old Boys' race was won by Cartwright after a close race with E. M. Wilde. The distance was 220 yards. They started from the top of the field and round the corner to the end of the 100 yards' course. They ran evenly to the corner, where Cartwright drew away from his opponent and won.

The tug-of-war between the Football Team v. Rest of the School ended in a win for the Football Team, as everybody expected would be the case. The Football team was captained by Thompson, and the Rest by Whitmore.

Throwing Cricket Ball (under 12).—1 J. G. Mellor, 2 L. Newton.

Throwing Cricket Ball (under 14).—1 J. West, 2 J. Whitehead.

Throwing Cricket Ball (open).—1 Thompson, 2 Baker.

Long Jump (under 14).—1 Ormrod, 2 J. West.

Long Jump (open).—1 Thompson, 2 Baker.

Sack Race.—1 J. Whitehead, 2 Fletcher (major).

High Jump (under 14).—1 J. West, 2 Fort.

High Jump (open).—1 Thompson, 2 Broomhead

100 Yards (under 12).—1 L. Newton, 2 J. G. Mellor.

100 Yards (under 13).—1 Hegginbottom, 2 Hutchinson.

100 Yards (under 14).—1 Ormrod, 2 Pressley.

100 Yards (open).—1 Broomhead, 2 Thompson.

100 Yards (under 15).—1 Butterworth, 2 Nuttall  
Quarter-Mile Handicap (open). — 1 Lowe, 2 Pressley, 3 Ormrod.

Spring-Board Jump (under 14).—1 Fort, 2 J. West.

Spring-Board Jump (open). — Tie between Thompson and Broomhead.

Hurdle Race (open).—1 Thompson, 2 Baker.

Half-Mile Handicap (under 14). — 1 Griffiths (6yds.), 2 Pressley (24yds.), 3 West (scratch).

One Mile Handicap (over 14). — 1 Rothwell (84yds.), 2 V. Mallalieu (180yds.), 3 G. E. Stott (210yds.).

220 yards Old Boys Race (all scratch).—1 Cartwright, 2 E. M. Wilde.

Consolation Race.—1 H. Roberts.

Tug-of-War.—Football Team (captain, Thompson) v. Rest of School (captain, Whitmore).  
Winner: Football Team.

Winner of Senior Championship : S. L. Thompson.

Winner of Junior Championship : J. West.

## Speech Day.

The Annual Speech Day was held December 3rd, 1901, and at the commencement of the proceedings the large hall was nearly filled with visitors. Indeed, seats were not forthcoming for many who arrived rather late. On the platform were Mrs. C. E. Lees, Mrs. A. Emmott, Miss D. Lees, Miss Clark (Head Mistress of Hulme Girls' School), Mr. A. Emmott, M.P., Mr. King (High Master of Manchester Grammar School), Professor Lamb, Canon Rountree, Mr. Hesketh Booth, and Mr. Andrew (Head Master).

The school hymn, "Veni Creator Spiritus," having been sung, Mr. Emmott, in opening, said letters of apology had been received from the Mayor of Oldham, Dr. Wilkins, Mr. Jackson Erierley, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Griffiths, and Dr. Yates. He then called upon Mr. Andrew to read his report of the school work during the past year.

Mr. Andrew began by expressing his regret at the loss to the staff of Mr. White, who has been appointed by the Government an organising Inspector of Schools in the Transvaal; but welcomed two new masters, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Patterson. He thanked Mrs. Lees for her great generosity in giving a large sum of money for "leaving" scholarships. He said it was proposed to form an Old

Boys' Club, the first meeting of which would be on December 16th. He said about eight old boys were at one or the other of the universities. Parents were too anxious to take their boys away from Grammar Schools and send them to technical schools. He did not think that an ordinary boy could learn such highly difficult technical subjects as dyeing, or electrical engineering, but thought that they must be highly educated before they could grasp such subjects. Sometimes he received requests from parents that their son could drop this or that subject. Education is such that you cannot take away one subject without injuring the rest. For instance, a boy could not give up Latin without his English studies suffering. Sometimes boys were brought to him, the parents remarking that because the boy was going to be an engineer or a doctor, or something else, he would not require this or that subject. He generally replied that the boy may change his mind altogether when he gets older, and then his want of the missing subject would be felt. He advised parents not to let their boys drop this or that subject, but take the school curriculum and continue it to the end—(applause).

Mr. H. King, High Master of the Manchester Grammar School, after having distributed the prizes and certificates, then said: The first thing which he intended to do was to express his regret at the absence of Mr. Mather, M.P., who was unavoidably detained in London by political business. With regard to the townspeople having such a good school in their midst, he would say, as a Somersetshire man once said to a bride, "Dunna yo think yo're a fortunate 'ooman?" Now he hoped they would take advantage of their good fortune, which at present they did not quite do as fully as they ought. Grammar schools are just now very much criticised, but we must not mind this so long as the critics know what they are speaking about. For instance, Mr. Andrew might criticise schools and school management, but one would not expect him to criticise the bankruptcy courts or anything of that sort. It is said that German schools are better than ours, but we must remember that they are not under the same conditions at all. In the first place there is conscription, which keeps the German children at school for a much longer time than is customary in England. Now just lately there has been an exhibition of American school work, specimens of which indeed show great promise for the future. But Mr. King would not mind the work of English scholars being compared with American work. Perhaps people may say that Grammar schools are becoming antiquated in that they have too much Latin. This certainly does not apply in the case of Lancashire. It reminds one of the fable of the ox and the fly, in which the fly settles on the ox while the latter is ploughing, and then

enquires if he is disturbing him. The amount of Latin in Lancashire is the fly upon the educational ox. Some people say why should grammar be taught? Now grammar is the art of arranging a language into little heaps of words, and as Professor Owen could from a single bone re-construct the whole animal, so if a grammarian was given a word he could tell you its derivation, etc. Now as to whether a boy needed a grammar school education or not, Mr. King said that supposing two boys (or girls) were taken, and the first boy was given an education in natural sciences only, and the second an education in ordinary grammar school subjects, that he would stake any reputation which he had or was likely to have as a school master, that the second would in a very short time catch up the other if he were then put to do the same science work.

Professor Lamb, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. King, said he was proud to be a member of the Governors, and although he had not been present at many speech days, he said that no school stood higher in his interest than ours. He thought the educational crisis would be a continual one. He had very great pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. King.

Mr. G. B. Taylor, in seconding, said all their thanks were due to Mr. King for coming at a moment's notice to present the prizes, and Mr. King deserved the thanks of the Oldham people for the interest he took in their school. He had the greatest pleasure in seconding the motion.

Canon Rountree, in supporting the motion, said that the school ought to be very thankful for the gifts of Mrs. and Miss Lees. He thought that women have not the opportunities they ought to have in this country. It was unfortunate that the universities would not allow women to become graduates. The same jealousy is shown all over the country. At Macclesfield a woman fully qualified was prevented from taking a medical position which ought to have been hers simply because of jealousy of men. He had great pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. King briefly responded, and the meeting broke up after the singing of the National Anthem.

## School Record, 1900-1901.

### UNIVERSITIES.

W. L. Middleton, Open Science Scholarship, Trinity College, Oxford; B. W. Lees, Cobden Prize for Political Economy, Owens College; F. J. S. Whitmore, Passed into Brazenose College, Oxford; H. C. Widdows, Wadham College, Oxford.

### LEAVING EXHIBITIONS.

T. W. Middleton and F. J. S. Whitmore (£30 a year for three years).

### OXFORD SENIOR LOCALS.

Honours Division.—T. W. Middleton, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Literature, History, Essay, Latin, French, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; F. J. S. Whitmore, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Literature, History, Essay, French, Latin, Greek.

First Class.—J. E. Wood, A. Brierley, L. Baker, J. T. Middleton, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Literature, History, Essay, Latin, French, Mathematics.

### LONDON MATRICULATION.

First Division.—L. Baker, J. A. Brierley, C. W. Barratt, T. W. Middleton.

### OXFORD JUNIOR LOCAL.

Honours Division.—V. Mallalieu, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Literature, Essay, French, Mathematics, Science, Mechanics.

First Division.—H. Horsfall, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, French, Mathematics, Science; R. O. Mellor, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Essay, Latin, French, Algebra; N. Taylor, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Essay, Latin.

Second Division (over 16). — J. C. Brierley, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Mathematics, Science; J. F. L. Orton, Arithmetic, Grammar, History, Essay, Mathematics, Science; T. Robinson, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Essay, French, Science; A. Rothwell, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Essay, Latin, French.

### COMMERCIAL CERTIFICATES.

V. Mallalieu, H. Horsfall, R. O. Mellor, T. Robinson, A. Rothwell.

## Prize List.

### MATHEMATICS.

Form VI.—Middleton, T. W.; Set A, Mallalieu, V., and Brierley, J. C.; Set B, Ormrod; Set C, Laycock and Whitehead, J. E.; Set D, Nuttall; Set E, Winterbottom; Set F, Hardman.

### FORM PRIZES.

Form VI.—Middleton, T. W., Whitmore, F. J. S.

Form V.—Mallalieu, V., i, Mellor, R. O., ii.

Form IV.—Ormrod i, Jackson and West ii.

Form III. Alpha.—Laycock i, Whitehead, J. E., ii.

Form III. Beta.—Warrener i, Wade ii.

Form II.—Lowe i, Lees F. ii.

Form I.—Hardman i, Grime ii.

## Oxford Letter.

Junior Common Room,  
Brasenose College, Oxford.

It is with mingled feelings of joy and regret that I write these few lines to the "Hulmeian"—joy on account of the realisation of my hope of coming up to Oxford, and regret at leaving behind so many good friends both among masters and boys.

Time flies so quickly that I can scarcely realise that I am "an undergrad." of this University and have nearly completed my first term of residence. I am pleased to say that Alma Mater has under her care three Old Hulmeians at Trinity, Wadham, and Brasenose respectively.

Hulme's trust is well represented at Brasenose in the way of Scholarships and Exhibitions, and this keeps fresh in my memory the fact that I owe the pleasure of my schooldays at Oldham to the beneficence of that worthy. Everything seems so novel here to the Freshman, including a sense of freedom from imposed tasks.

Presumably one resides here in order to work, but work is permitted rather than enforced. To my mind the judicious mingling of work and recreation is the best possible course for one to take.

Serious reading ceases at Oxford at one p.m. for the afternoon, and shortly after men are seen by the hundred attired in flannels, knickers, etc., according to the sport in which they propose to practise.

My chief haunt is the river, although I have no hopes of being in my college boat. Every fresher, however, must go through a preliminary course in really serious rowing, technically known here as "tubbing."

Those, however, who are not chosen to represent their college may still row for their own amusement. All undergraduates dine together. This is known as "Hall." With this exception meals are served in each undergraduate's room. Dinner finished, the men disperse to various occupations or diversions, the studious to work, the livelier portion to amusements and indoor recreations, among which, by the way, the inevitable ping-pong holds sway. In short, the only bêtes-noires in an undergrad's life are the 8-o a.m. "roll calls," which one does not relish on a cold morning, and the wily Proctors at night, with their "bull dogs" on the look-out for refractory or rowdy students. I am pleased to be able to say that as yet they have had no occasion to pounce down upon an innocent

Nov., 1901.

FRESHMAN.

## Suggested Old Boys' Association.

To the Editor of the "Oldham Hulmeian."  
Sir,—The School is now in the seventh year of its existence, and many of its Old Boys by this time have probably reached, or, I may say, certainly imagine they have reached, years of greater (or less) discretion.

The time, therefore, seems ripe for the formation of an Old Boys' Association. Such an Association will not be merely a pleasant means of meeting for those who have worked at school together, but it will give a strength and stability to school life which is lacking if a boy's interest in the well-being of the School only continues during the few years he is actually at work there.

I would, therefore, urge all Old Boys to attend, if they possibly can, the general meeting, a notice of which appears in another part of this paper, so that the formation of the Association may be a complete success.—Yours, etc.,

Werneth, 27th Nov., 1901. B. W. LEES.

The following notice has been sent to all Old Boys whose addresses are known:—

Dear Sir,—An Old Boys' Association in connection with the Oldham Hulme Grammar School has been suggested.

A general meeting to form such an Association will be held at the School on Monday, December 16th, 1901, at 8-o p.m.

It is hoped there will be a good gathering of Old Boys, and that you will be able to attend.—Yours faithfully,

F. A. S. DUXBURY.  
H. HIRST,  
B. W. LEES,  
W. E. W. MILLINGTON,  
N. L. PROSSER,  
GEO. ROUNTREE.

## Science "Howlers."

Examination questions frequently produce astonishing results in the shape of answers. This appears to have been particularly the case with the science examination of last term. For instance, a question on the properties of sodium brought to light some properties that were heretofore unheard of. One answer summed them up in the statement that "sodium is a substance which absorbs nitrogen from the air." Two more ventured upon opinions with respect to its solubility, one saying that sodium was soluble in water, the resulting solution being an oxide, which was also an acid, whilst the other one affirmed the result to be a solution of sodium nitrate, an alkali. Yet



another thought that a dense white precipitate would be found by adding dilute hydrochloric acid to the resulting hydroxide.

In describing the preparation of chlorine two boys evidently suffered from loss of memory, whilst reason refused to come to their aid; for whilst one directs the operator to mix manganese and — in a flask, the other tells him to add a black substance to a white one and then pour on hydrochloric acid. Another startling statement is that chlorine "bleaches" pink blotting paper "a dark brown."

We also learn that phosphorus when left exposed to the air goes to nothing!

An element is variously described as (a) something which can be reduced to a simple form; (b) something which undergoes no change when acted upon by heat or by an acid; (c) something which will not dissolve in water.

Adding more water until all the acid was gone, would not perhaps strike everyone as an ideal method of obtaining pure water from dilute hydrochloric acid, still it is one which one boy seriously proposed. In reply to the question "In what form are tin and copper usually met with?" we are told that "Tin is found mostly in the form of cans," and that "Copper is generally met with in the form of kettals and pennies."

### Jones' Recitation.

The boy stood on the burning deck  
 He—He stood upon his head  
 Because his arms and legs were off  
 So he waved his sword and said  
 My name is Norval, on the Grampian hills  
 The village smithy stands, the smith a mighty  
 man was—  
 Was wrecked on the pitiless Goodwin Sands  
 And by him sported on the green

### Some Facts about the Navy.

It is indispensable that we should have not only a powerful Navy, but I may say an all-powerful Navy." These words were spoken in 1893 by a present member of Parliament. That member was none other than the peaceable and learned John Morley. If, then, such unmistakeable words come from so mild a man, need we hesitate to assume that the great majority of public opinion at least professes to desire an all-powerful Navy. "An invincible Navy" were the words used by Sir Hy. Campbell-Bannerman only a few weeks ago.

Now is this word "invincible" to be used as regards a comparison with a single enemy or with

a probable combination of enemies, such as France and Russia. If the latter, I may unhesitatingly affirm that "equality" would be a far more appropriate word than "invincibility." Even if we take France alone invincible is too strong a word to use; and for this reason. Russia keeps her main strength in the Far East, and we perforce have to keep some five of our latest battleships to protect our interests in those waters. If war were to break out with France those ships would probably be unavailable until the first decisive blow had been struck; indeed, it is very doubtful if we could ever trust Russia sufficiently to withdraw our China fleet to Europe. Our position with regard to France would thus be superior, but certainly not so superior as in any degree to warrant the term invincible.

Here are the approximate figures for completed battleships at the close of this year, taken from the "Naval Annual":—

	England.	France and Russia.
First-class Battleships...	26	18
Second-class „ ...	11	20
Third-class „ ...	10	12
Total .....	47	50

Of the twenty-six British first-class battleships, it is no exaggeration to say that eight, *i.e.*, the Royal Sovereign class, would probably have to knuckle under to an equal number of modern armoured cruisers. But on the whole our position in the first-class is satisfactory. It is in the second-class that we lose our advantage, and here the facts are worse than the figures; for while France has consistently modernised her older battleships, we have done very little towards improving ours. I do not wish to say that the policy of modernising old vessels is a good one; I hold it is better to put the money into new construction. But one thing or the other must be done. At present we are doing neither, but are content to reckon our second-class vessels as equivalent to the same class of French vessels, though a considerable sum has been spent in improving the latter.

Now we must decide whether we shall have an invincible Navy or simply a very powerful Navy. At present, and I say this with the risk of being accused of playing too nicely with words, we have only a powerful Navy as regards a comparison with France and Russia. How many men of responsible positions—I may mention Lord Charles Beresford and that important institution the Navy League—hold that our standard in battleships should be at least five to three compared with the two next strongest naval powers. If we look at the figures above we see that to accomplish this, we need the equivalent of four first-class battleships and twenty-two second-class, in the case of



France and Russia. Can this standard of strength be reached by us? Personally I have no doubt that this would be beyond our power. Is it likely that France and Russia would be content to see us in the position of arbiter and law-maker of Europe without the most strenuous exertions on their part to make their position less humiliating. Under their competition we should without doubt have to build at least double the number of vessels mentioned above before we reached our standard of five to three. Could Britain, rich as she is, stand such a strain on her resources.

But the very fact, that we are so far below a standard urged by many eminent men should open our eyes. Let us consider the effect of naval defeat on ourselves and on foreign Powers. Were the French Navy to be completely defeated and driven from the seas, yet her huge army, and her neutral frontiers, over which food could readily be brought, would enable her to hold out for reasonable and honourable terms of peace. Now consider our position with the British Navy defeated on all sides, and hostile squadrons patrolling our coasts. Not the grandest army in the world, nor the utmost patriotism of which we are capable, could save us from a slow and steady starvation. Not a tithe of our huge exports of food would reach this country. By recent calculations three-fourths of our corn supply comes from abroad. Even if the more high-minded and patriotic of Englishmen were to hold out on a starvation diet, how could the Government withstand the clamour of the lower class of populace of our great cities. We should be at the mercy of our victors, and bound ignominiously to accept whatever terms they chose to offer us. Can one imagine a more helpless or more humiliating condition for one of the greatest nations of history. Yet this picture is no fanciful exaggeration, it is the sober view of the consequences that would follow if our Navy were defeated.

Considering then the great interests at stake, is it sufficient to have merely a slight superiority over a probable combination of enemies? There can be only one answer, and that a decisive one. It is *not* sufficient. The very least that we can be satisfied with is another small squadron of six first-class battleships. The present Channel Fleet would thus be enabled to be permanently joined to the Mediterranean Fleet, and we should have in addition a small but powerful squadron to guard the Northern Seas.

As money is the principal obstacle in these matters, I will state roughly the cost of this necessary increase. The six battleships would cost about £6,000,000. This squadron would need six cruisers to act as its scouts, and we may put the cost of these at about £2,500,000. The scheme which should be finished within four years, would

total, with torpedo craft added, to some £9,000,000. This, I repeat, is the very lowest margin of safety we should be satisfied with. But someone may say, you have not taken into account the cost of maintaining these extra ships, and providing the men for them. That difficulty is easy to overcome. There are ten third-class battleships still on the Navy List, their names may be seen in each monthly paper of the Navy League, which are armed mainly with muzzle-loading guns. These could be most advantageously "scrapped." There are also some dozen armoured coast-defence vessels of 3,000 tons upwards, none launched later than 1880, the loss of which would be very little felt by the Navy. The crews would be transferred to the new ships, whose cost of maintenance would thus be only a small additional burden to the exchequer.

I am quite aware that this article is altogether too serious for a School Magazine. The only excuse I can offer is that in a matter of this importance the end in view justifies any means to make the facts of the case known. Public opinion goes on, and on, imagining all is for the best; the average citizen never calculates the risks we run, rarely gives them a thought. My advice to everyone of every age, degree, and sex is—Join the Navy League. If you think its views too advanced, you can, as a member, do your best to modify such views. But a League, such as this, is a most powerful antidote to the reluctance of governing politicians to make further demands on the Exchequer.

Now if any boy, Old or Present, wishes to join the League, and will send his name and address to the Editor, marking the envelope "Navy League," I shall be happy to see that he has a Navy League pamphlet sent to him. In conclusion, I may state that the League is especially anxious to interest schools in naval history and naval topics. In many places prizes in books are given by the local branch of the League to the best school-boy essay on some given naval topic or naval war. Prizes are also given by the League, open for all schools to compete for. From the list below it will be seen that there are no great financial difficulties in obtaining admission to the League. The monthly publication is a very interesting little paper.

B. W. L.

#### THE NAVY LEAGUE.

All information to be obtained from the Secretary, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Subscriptions:—

Members, £1 rs. annually.

Members for life, £10 rs.

Associates, with publications post free, not less than 5s. annually.

Associates, without publications, any less amount.