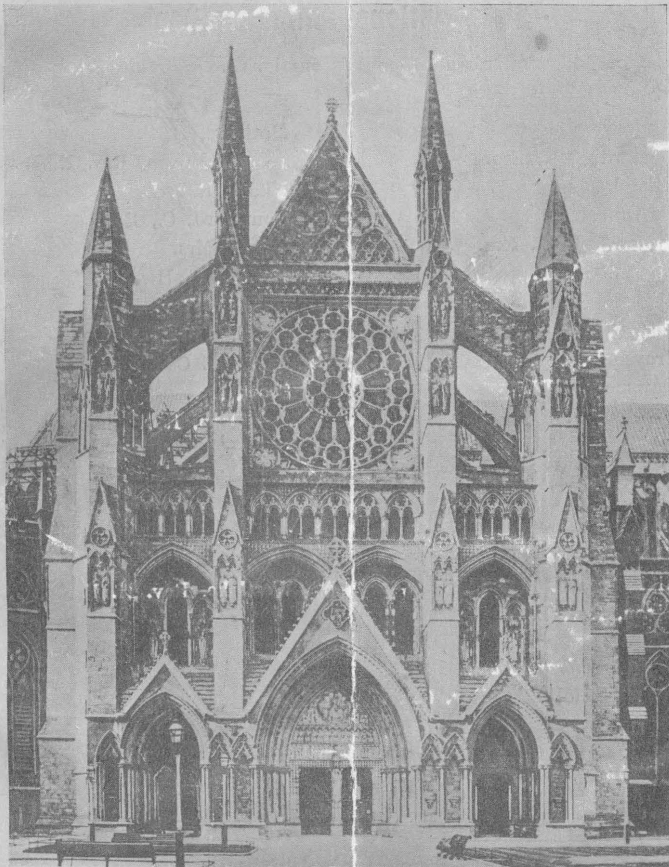


Westminster
Abbey



Choristers' Magazine.



In the chapel of Henry the Seventh, where the sculptured ceilings rare
Show the conquered stonework, hanging like cobweb film in air,
There are held two shrines in keeping, whose memories closely press:
The tomb of the Rose of Scotland and that of stout Queen Bess.

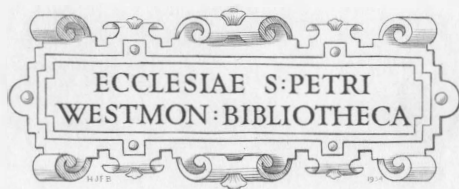
Henry Morford's "Two Queens in Westminster."

Nos. 1 to 12.

1909, 1910, 1911.

1912

F.H. Johnson



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by H. N. Johnson

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Westminster Abbey Choristers' Magazine.

No. 1. (PUBLISHED QUARTERLY) APRIL, 1909.

PRICE 6d.

Editorial.

Here we are! And why not? A school of 24 boys may be as full of life and enthusiasm and energy as one of 240. Let it be granted that such is the case, then it is *not* required to prove that a Magazine is as absolutely necessary in the smaller as in the greater. Now, it is perfectly plain that a school which has nothing to say for itself is an impossibility. Twenty-four boys without a tongue!! The idea is comical, ridiculous, absurd. Hence, such a *reductio ad absurdum* proves that these 24 tongues must find a medium of expression, an abiding record of their activity, their wisdom, and their folly—to wit, a Magazine. To Magazine a wit, therefore, aided and abetted by 23 other wits, turns his serious attention. Result: the first number of the WESTMINSTER ABBEY CHORISTERS' MAGAZINE. Q.E.D. An unanswerable Q.E.D. you must frankly admit, but what about the Q.E.F.? Ah! there's the rub. Proving isn't doing, and printers don't print for love. We've got the boys, we've got the tongues, but we haven't got the money too. Well—to get it out without further parley—we've got to get it out of you. You are our friend—don't deny it—we've got your love, and we must have your money too, or die a sudden and violent death. We will try to earn it; we will give you a vivid and thrilling picture of Choir House life; we will draw your smiles (of derision) and tears (of pity), but for all this we have our price, namely, 2s. a year for a Quarterly Number. So, we entreat you, dear reader, shut your eyes, and open your heart and your purse, and pour out of your abundance lavishly, recklessly, blindly, to give us a good start; then become a yearly subscriber, and your niche in the Temple of Fame is secure. Future ages will reverence you as one of the promoters of that Eighth Wonder of the World—THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY CHORISTERS' MAGAZINE.

School Notes.

The year that has gone has, in some respects, been a cruel one; it leaves behind wounds in our hearts that cannot be easily healed. The loss of our Headmaster, Mr. Blackmore, was an unexpected and bitter shock; one, too, that entailed other losses little less severe. Along with his wide sympathy and large-

hearted kindness have gone those and other qualities which Mrs. Blackmore shared with her husband, and all the affectionate interest which she and Miss Swaffield took in our welfare. It is a loss too severe for us to wish to dwell upon it, save in these few words of loving gratitude to them all for their devoted work among us, and for the spirit which inspired it.

Other faces have gone, too, intimately associated with our life and worship in the Abbey. William Cyril Knubley Brown, who had been with us since April, 1904, could not rally from the effects of an operation for appendicitis, and died on February 6th. Two days later, in St. Faith's Chapel, the Abbey paid the last honours to the Chorister it had lost, and we enshrined our absent friend in our memory.

Still another faithful servant of the Abbey has died at his post; after 30 years of devoted service, the Reverend John Henry Chcadle, our oldest Minor Canon, laid down his task, and laid bare the record of silent activities which have extended far beyond the limits of his life among us.

His appointment and the Headmastership of the Choir School, the Dean and Chapter have thought it wise to unite in the person of the Rev. W. B. Dams, who for the last three years has been discharging similar duties at St. Paul's Cathedral. May he succeed in uniting for our welfare the excellences of those to whom he has succeeded!!

The Dean and Chapter have made a generous effort to foster scholarship and stimulate research in the Choir School by offering a Scholarship of £40 a year to be held at some place of higher education; the awarding of this will depend partly on examination, and partly on the ability of the holder to make a valuable use of the opportunity afforded him. Other rungs, it is hoped, will in due course be added to complete the educational ladder from this school to the Universities.

On Thursday, March 25th, we varied our usual history lesson in a very delightful way. We went to the spot where history is made—the Houses of Parliament. The Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Erskine, most kindly undertook to be our guide, and out of the treasure-house of knowledge that many years' residence in the House has given him poured a stream of interesting facts, which charmed us all. The experience was most instructive and enjoyable, and we are all very grateful to Mr. Erskine for his kindness.

A Confirmation for Westminster School and our own Choristers was held in Henry VII.'s Chapel on Saturday, March 27th, by the Bishop of Ely. Five Choristers were confirmed: Rivière, Chidson, Johnson I., Belton, and Cooke.

We are sorry that we must lose three of our members this term: Rivière—whose lively interest in all things mechanical will no doubt some day give to us the Rivière-oplane and the Conquest of the Air; Barnes—shortly (or should we say “longly”?) to grace the Strand School by his manly stature; and Williams—who hopes to climb the Civil Service ladder. May they all succeed, and shed lustre on the old Choir House!!

Football has prospered this season, and out of 12 matches, the First Eleven has only lost four: two of these when its ranks were thinned by illness. At last, after five years, we have beaten St. Paul's, and shattered their two years' unbeaten record. Let that be our claim to greatness.

We heartily thank the Bishop of London for again inviting us to "trip the light fantastic toe" at Fulham Palace at the New Year. Realising that we should encounter many fantastic toes that were not light, and this being the season of chilblains, we thought it well to undergo a little toe-preparation in the shape of a few preliminary gambols at the Choir House. All the toes agreed that this precaution was very wise, and the real Dance was, in consequence, much enjoyed.

Heartiest congratulations to L. A. Collingwood, on obtaining an Organ Scholarship at Exeter College, Oxford. He succeeds C. E. Winn, whose prowess on the Sports' field as a Chorister of St. Paul's many a Westminster boy experienced to his cost. We hope Collingwood will continue the healthy rivalry begun in earlier days, and will not leave Oxford without making as great a name for himself as his predecessor has done. If he does this, he will have accomplished a difficult task.

Donald H. Reid, better known, perhaps, to several Old Boys as *The Archbishop*, has come back to London as a Vicar Choral of St. Paul's Cathedral. Without detracting in the slightest from the warmth of our welcome, or the heartiness of our congratulations, we cannot let the occasion pass without asking why he has not gone one better and come to us? Surely, he would have found as great, if not greater, friends here. At least he would have felt more at home.

Our two Old Boys in the Eastern Telegraph Service are still prospering. H. Gritten remains at Vigo, but A. E. Burnham has gone on to Suez, where he is manipulating the organ at the Services in the English Church with as great success as he did at his former abode.

Robert J. Stannard has finished his successful career at the Guildhall School of Music as the first holder of the Scholarship offered by the Royal Society of Musicians to Choristers of Westminster and St. Paul's. His efforts during the first two years were so much appreciated that he was asked to stay another year, and he was not slow to avail himself of the opportunity. As a result of the tuition received, he succeeded in passing the First Exam. for the Degree of Mus. Bac. at Durham in September, 1908, and in December of the same year was awarded the Mercers' Scholarship of 50 guineas at the Guildhall School of Music. In January last, he passed the Exam. for Associateship of the Royal College of Organists, and gained the Henry Cart Prize for obtaining the highest number of marks.

Richard J. C. Chanter is now organist of Christ Church, Woburn Square, and is ready at any time to give an Old Boy an organ recital free of charge, or other drawback. Herbert W. Dawson is not letting him get far ahead. He has recently been seen with a full score under his arm on his way to conduct a Choral Society at Acton.

* see no. 2
p. 3

At last the ice is broken, and we have an Old Boy at Westminster School. May it never freeze over again! The honour falls to H. S. Price, who remains in *statu pupillari* at Ashburnham House. We need have no fear that he will establish a record worthy of the Choir House. He may already be seen, we hear, defending his House on the football field, but as a rule, anyone wishing to see him at present will have to remove a host of Greek and Latin impedimenta before getting at the article proper.

The School owes a big debt of thanks to another Old Chorister, H. F. Griselle, for the keen interest he maintains in its welfare. He has given invaluable assistance in editing this first number of the Magazine, and promises that so long as he can put his shoulders to its wheel, it shall never stop rolling. Other Old Boys, please note this, and catch his enthusiasm. Also please keep him informed of your successes and changes of address, so that the CHORISTERS' MAGAZINE may record them.

On Thursday, April 15, there will be the Annual Easter Reunion of Old Boys at the Choir House. Supper will be at 7.30, and will be followed at 9 o'clock by a Service in St. Faith's Chapel, when the Sub-Dean will give the address. The usual Corporate Communion will be held in Henry VII.'s Chapel, at 8, followed by breakfast at the Choir House, at 9 o'clock.

Old Boys' Meeting.

THE 4TH OF FEBRUARY.

"And what is the 4th of February?" my readers will ask. I agree that it is not as well known as the 5th of November, but still it is a day of very great importance all the same. It is a red-letter day for the Old Boys of the Choir House. It was on that day that many an Old Boy's fondest and most cherished desire saw hope of ultimate satisfaction quivering delightfully in the distance. How difficult it is for one who has severed all connection with old associations and environments to carry forward in other surroundings the lessons taught him in easier circumstances. But how much easier the task is made if only one can see again in their own atmosphere those whom one cannot help associating with certain ideas and actions. These and many similar thoughts crossed my mind as I wandered through the streets of Westminster, to 2, The Cloisters, to receive once again at the hands of the Precentor one of those many kindnesses which, as one who had passed through the Choir House, it had been my privilege to experience so often before. But never before had I passed within the sphere of kind influence with so much eagerness or expectation. Formally, I was answering an invitation to an "At-Home," to meet the Headmaster and Miss Dams, but behind the formality, there was a deeper meaning. I knew that there was a determination to carry the influence of the Choir House to the world outside, by banding the Old Boys together in a bond of brotherhood, just as they had been banded together under the Choir House roof itself, and that many

an Old Boy was at that moment turning his footsteps in the same direction as myself.

The Precentor and the Misses Bainbridge received us with every mark of kindness and friendship, as did also Sir Frederick and Mr. Hine Haycock, and after full justice had been done to the good things provided, we proceeded to the Drawing Room. When many kind greetings had been exchanged, and every one had been made comfortable and generally pleased with themselves, the Precentor motioned silence, in order to say a few words of welcome and congratulation, which quickly brought Mr. Dams to his feet. Our new Headmaster was not slow to avail himself of the opportunity of tackling us on various points, and rivetted our attention for the next 15 minutes or so. The main features of his speech all tended in one direction—his desire to do all in his power for those who had passed through the Choir House and to make them feel that, though they could not always be singing in the Abbey as Choristers, yet they would ever have a ready welcome at the Choir House. Old Boys must expect to find the Choir House busy, but a smile would always be waiting for them, whatever the stress of work. When his house in the Little Cloisters (which is now undergoing various repairs) was ready, he wished Old Boys to regard it as a home, and never to pass through Westminster without paying him a visit.

He referred to several things which he wished to see started within the ensuing year. Why should we not have a Magazine? Our friends further down the Thames had reached the 109th Number of their Mag. already, and had always found it a great help in all work connected with the School. By way of illustration, he related how one of the St. Paul's boys had gone to a remote part of Canada, and finding no church there, had written to his old friends, and pointed out the need. Mr. Morgan Brown at once determined to do all he could, and his hopes exceeded expectations. The School Magazine was used as the *modus operandi*, and very quickly as much as £100 was collected amongst the members (past and present) of the Choir House and their friends. A new St. Paul's (certainly considerably smaller than its namesake, but still St. Paul's all the same) rapidly rose on the prairie, and stands now as a monument of what use a School Magazine can serve.

Further, he wished to see a Past and Present Cricket Match figuring on the fixture card. With such masses of humanity around him, he could not broach the subject of football, but cricket was a different matter, and he looked forward very much to knocking us all round Vincent Square. He thought, too, that an Old Boys' race had very great possibilities.

Loud applause greeted all that Mr. Dams had said, and though no Old Boy rose to put his feelings into words, I am sure we all felt determined to do everything in our power to help him carry his words into practice.

Sir Frederick then rose to urge us not to forget the scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music. He had done his part, and he expected us to do ours. It would be remembered that we were supposed to share the scholarship (established

about three years ago) alternately with St. Paul's. The first opportunity of benefiting by it was given to our co-partners, but they having no one ready, Stannard slipped into the breach. The latter has now vacated the position, and though Sir Frederick had impressed upon the Authorities that it was now our turn, as we had only filled up a stop-gap before, he had not been able to carry his point, and the offer went again to St. Paul's. They, however, still had no one ready, and the chance came once more to the Abbey. He called upon us not to let it go by unheeded. He, of course, maintained that though we might fill the vacancy now, when it came round again it would still be our turn, as we had only filled another stop-gap. He was afraid, however, that the Authorities would not see it in his light, though he anticipated no loss in this respect, as we seemed to get what we wanted in any case.

I don't think there is any more of the pleasant evening's proceedings that can be put on paper, except that Mr. Hine Haycock's kindness in rendering two songs (one of his own composition) must not be passed without a word of thanks and appreciation.

H. F. GRISELLE.

The "Choristers' Magazine" and what it means to an Old Chorister Abroad.

No doubt many of my old comrades whose work takes them for any length of time away from England have felt, as I have, that the want of some medium of obtaining news of their old School and schoolfellows was a great sorrow to them. It has always seemed to me a great pity that after leaving School, we should never hear a word of how our worthy successors are doing, and of how our old comrades are taking their parts in life. Nor have we any news of our dear Master and Friend, Sir Frederick, except for the few notices we happen to see in the newspapers. Moreover, those of us who played in the games would like to hear from time to time the results of any matches played, more especially the cricket matches against the Chapel Royal. I am sure that, at last, this medium has been found, and that we shall once more come into touch with the Abbey. I also hope that through these pages we may hear of our old friends, so that wherever we may be, we shall always feel that we are still associated with the dear old Abbey. I think that I may presume to say that, for having founded the CHORISTERS' MAGAZINE, Mr. Dams will have the hearty thanks of all the Old Boys, and especially the sincere gratitude of the "Exiles."

SUEZ.

24th February, 1909.

The Prize-giving.

On Tuesday, December 22nd, the Annual Prize-Giving was held in the Library after Evensong. The room was taxed to the utmost to enclose the throng of

Canons, Minor Canons, friends and parents, who graced the occasion by their presence, and when the Dean rose to open the proceedings, his remarks were made, as always, no doubt, to a "Full House." After the Headmaster had read his Report of his examination of the School, the Dean distributed the goodly array of prizes which his kindness and that of many other friends had provided. He then spoke encouragingly of the School's future, and alluded very humorously to certain weaknesses which the examination had revealed in our work. "The babies" must have been greatly comforted by his assurance that grown-ups have actually distorted such words as "coffee," "wife," more completely than even their most desperate recklessness could do—none of them could fall into worse morasses of mis-spelling than "kauphy" and "yph." While we were still laughing, the Precentor, the Archdeacon, and Sir Frederick each in turn took up the tale, and scattered fun broadcast, so that everyone was in good humour to enjoy the little programme of carols and instrumental pieces that the Choristers had prepared under the kind guidance of Mr. Roper and Mr. Birch. Then the gorgeous dormitory decorations had to be inspected, and pronounced "unparalleled," and after that, Choristers, past and present, settled down to the Annual Christmas Banquet; the usual concluding frolic, when old vied with young in silliness, and were happy to do so, brought a very jolly evening to a close.

PRIZE LIST.

Head of the School, Savill. Second, Rivière. Head of Class II., Jekyll.

<i>Divinity</i> .. ..	.. Class I. Rivière.	Class II.,	Bridgman.	
<i>Latin</i> .. ..	.. Philpot	..	Williams II.	<i>Greek, Chidson.</i>
<i>French</i> .. ..	.. Rivière.	..	Jekyll.	
<i>English</i> .. ..	.. Philpot.	..	Johnson II.	
<i>Mathematics</i> .. ..	.. Savill.	..	Jekyll.	
<i>History and Geography</i> ..	.. Chidson .	..	Johnson II.	
<i>Special History Prize</i> ..	.. Knight.	<i>English Composition</i> ..	.. Philpot.	
<i>Reading</i> .. ..	.. Philpot.	<i>Drawing</i> .. ..	.. Johnson I.	
<i>Shorthand</i> .. ..	.. Whippey.	<i>Monitor Prize</i> .. ..	.. Knight.	
<i>Music, 1st Chorister</i> ..	.. Whippey.	<i>1st Probationer</i> .. ..	.. Crux.	
<i>Purcell Prize, Senior</i> ..	.. Philpot.	<i>Junior</i> .. ..	.. Barnes.	
<i>Piano, Choristers</i> ..	.. Belton.	<i>Probationers</i> .. ..	.. Williams II.	
<i>Extra (for good work)</i> ..	.. Knight, Savill, Belton.			

Report of the Examination of Westminster Abbey Choir School, 1908 (Christmas).

To the Very Rev. the Dean and the Rev. the Chapter of Westminster Abbey.

GENTLEMEN,

Having by your request examined your Choir School this Christmas, I now submit to you my Report on the Examination.

The Examination has been conducted chiefly by written papers, but in Divinity, in the case of the Junior boys, an oral examination was also held. The subjects of examination have been those studied during the past year, but particular attention has been paid to the work of this last term, as due allowance must be made for the fact that the early part of the year has been so troubled and broken.

I. DIVINITY :

The Sub-Dean very kindly offered to test this part of our work, and reports thus :—

“ I have again examined the School in Divinity, the subjects offered being the Book of Judges, the Gospel of St. Luke, and the Catechism. Separate papers on these were set to the Senior and the Junior Divisions, the Junior being also examined *viva voce*. Since only two hours could be allotted to the Written Examination in all these subjects, it was impossible to test very thoroughly the work of the year. In the Senior Division, the boys who did best showed considerable knowledge and thoughtfulness. They are a small group, however, and between them and the rest of the Division there is a marked hiatus. In the lower Division, the majority acquitted themselves creditably, particularly in the *viva voce* interview, for the slow penmanship of early youth allows of but scanty output on paper, and, no doubt, some of the startling feats of phonetic spelling were due to forcing the pace in writing against time. I ought, however, to point out that the spelling throughout the School is capable of much improvement. The knowledge of the Book of Judges, which from its richness in adventure has great attraction for boys, was good throughout the School; while many showed signs of careful religious teaching in the intelligent answers which they gave to questions on the Third Gospel.”

[1. Rivière, 72. 2. Philpot, 68. 3. Whippey, 67. 4. Savill, 61. Bridgman, 52. Crux, 47.]

II. CLASSICS :

(i.) *Latin*.—(a). The First Class is in two Divisions, and the First Division has proved itself both in the term and Examination a very keen and promising one. The paper seems to have been rather too long for the time given, and the translations of Virgil and the Latin Unseen suffered in consequence, only Chidson showing up at all well. The passages from Eutropius, on the other hand, were very well rendered, although the ground covered has been fairly extensive,

some 25 pages. The Grammar, chosen haphazard from Junior and Preliminary Local papers, was carefully and accurately done, but the sentences were very weak, and point to the need of patient work in this department. The Second Division is far behind the First, but Johnson I. shows much promise. Here also Grammar was the strongest feature.

[1. Philpot, 68. 2. Savill, 64. 3. Rivière, 63. 4. Chidson, 61.
1. Johnson I., 42. 5. Cook, 16.]

(b). *Latin*.—With two exceptions, the papers of the Second Class were very satisfactory, and there was abundant evidence of careful, painstaking teaching. The translation into Latin, as usual with small boys, was not a strong feature, but the declensions and verbs were uniformly good.

[1. Williams, 62. 2. Jekyll, 60. 3. Adams, 56.]

(ii.) *Greek*.—This is practically the work of one term, and the first term at such a language does not produce much fruit, but there has been a good deal of interest shown in the work, and the fact that nine boys are learning of their own choice is encouraging. They are grouped in three Divisions, of which the first showed up the most satisfactory work. Chidson and Philpot were within 1 mark of each other (61 and 60), and showed a good knowledge of Grammar; but their sentences were poor. Of the others, who are all beginners, the sense of sound was much in advance of that of sight, and the writing in a strange language was often very strange. Savill was quite the best.

III. FRENCH :

(i.) The First Class is in two Divisions, and here again there is a wide gulf between the two. The work of the First, both in Grammar and Translation, was excellent, and the composition was a specially strong feature. There was a close fight for the top place, and Rivière, Philpot, Whippley, Saville were within 5 marks of each other [90, 89, 88, 86]. Of the Second Division, Johnson I. was again the best, but Belton followed him very closely. [59, 50.]

(ii.) In the Second Class the results, with two or three exceptions, were not very good. Jekyll reached a good standard with 62, but for the most part there seemed need of much more writing practice, for accents were often omitted or misplaced, and the spelling was shaky. The Regular Verbs for this reason were weak, and the translation of English into French is a point to be looked to. The translation from French into English was very much better, and some boys were almost faultless in this.

IV. ENGLISH :

(i.) *Grammar, Composition, Dictation*.—In the First Class, the work was good in all three papers, and some very high marks were obtained. In *Grammar* the parts of speech and their use were well understood; the analysis was well done by the first five or six boys, but in this the boys at the foot of the Class showed great weakness; the Parsing throughout the Class was also below the standard of the other work.

[1. Whippley, 84. 2. Chidson, 80. 3. Savill, 76. 4. Philpot, 71.]

A knotty piece from Green's "History of England" failed to shake the confidence of this Class in *Dictation*—at least, in the upper portion—and six boys obtained over 80 per cent.

Of the *Composition*, Mrs. Troutbeck, who very kindly selected the subject and classified the results (and who also gives the Prize), reports as follows:—

"I have read the Essays with much interest. I think the average good. On the whole, I have come to the conclusion that the one by F. H. Philpot is the best; although those by Chidson and Savill are very much on the same level. The Essays on Nelson, Gordon, and the Black Prince are also very creditable."

In the *Second Class*, the English Grammar was not a strong subject, only Jekyll and Johnson II. being over 33 per cent. Parsing in some cases was quite good, but the simple analysis produced some very curious results, and verbs and prepositions did very unusual and amusing things.

The *Dictation* was very satisfactory, on the whole, and left one wondering why boys who can do so well at a set piece, perform such marvels of mis-spelling when left to themselves?

(ii.) *English History and Geography*.—The work of the First Class in both these subjects was very encouraging, and there were no bad failures. The History was especially good, and Knight's paper was one of the best that has ever passed through my hands; even his earnestness and excellence throughout the term hardly suggested so successful a termination to the keen interest he has given to this part of his work. In awarding him 92 per cent., I was less liberal in my marking than I felt was due to him. Chidson and Rivière were also extremely good, and out of 12 boys, 10 obtained over 50 per cent., and showed a sound grasp of the period James I. to Charles II.

The *Geography* was not so well done, but there was some very good map-drawing, and the knowledge of general geography was almost uniformly good. Definitions were one of the weakest points.

In the *Second Class*, the *History* was again the stronger subject, and some good marks were obtained. Crux, with 65 per cent., showed the best knowledge of the subject, and Adams, Jekyll, Johnson, and Francis all did well. The dates of the kings were well known by most, and there was a fair grasp of facts, but general dates were weak throughout. Johnson II. did best in Geography with 55; Jekyll was good, too, but then came a big drop, and there was a long tail.

V. MATHEMATICS :

This is undeniably the weakness of the School, not so much in the quality of the work as in its limited range. Algebra and Geometry have been started, but so far the progress has been very slow, and not at all encouraging. A combined paper in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry was set to the *First Class*, and special emphasis was laid upon accuracy and method in the marking; very few marks were given for partially correct answers, however nearly right they might be. Seven boys came through the test satisfactorily, and Savill was very good—

76, under the circumstances, was a good mark. Johnson I. and Chidson (65 and 64) were also good; then came a big drop, and the next four boys all hover round the half-mark. There is great weakness in the tail of the Form, the tip being hardly able to wag at all.

In the *Second Class*, the same principle of marking was used, and there were some very good results. Jekyll's 87 is an excellent mark, and Johnson II. and Crux, with 63 and 62, are very good too. The average was really good, and there were only three really bad failures.

VI. DRAWING, SHORTHAND, WRITING, AND READING :

The boys were also examined in these subjects. *Drawing* is an addition to the School curriculum, which the boys seem to have welcomed, and the results of the Examination certainly point to the fact that the interest is not waning. Some very good work was shown up in both Classes, particularly by the Johnson brothers, who have a natural facility with the pencil. Cooke, Chidson, and Philpot in the First Class, and Jekyll, Dean and Bavin, in the Second, were good also.

Shorthand occupies the energies of those boys who do not learn Greek; only 40 minutes per week can be allotted to the subject, and the standard consequently is elementary. The boys, however, are interested and the Examination has shown fairly encouraging results. Whippey, Rivière, Williams I., and Williams II., Thomson, and Adams have all done well.

The *Writing* during the Examination has generally been very good, and the special Examination quite confirmed the more general impression. Johnson I. and his brother used their orderly minds and steadiness of hand to good effect again, and headed their respective classes, and almost equally good work was done by Philpot, Rivière, Savill among the Seniors, and Johnson II., Crux, Bavin, and Jekyll among the Juniors.

This year a Special Prize for *Reading* has been presented by Mrs. Cheadle, in memory of her husband, whose loss to her and to the Abbey we all deplore; the prize has been keenly contested, and so close were Philpot, Whippey, and Knight, the three monitors, that it was necessary to try them again; unfortunately the prize can only go to one, but the two disappointed ones can find some consolation in the fact that the very thinnest line of division separated them from the trophy.

VII. THEORY OF MUSIC :

Papers were set to both Classes by Mr. Roper, who teaches the piano throughout the School, and were well answered, Johnson I., Whippey, and Savill among the Seniors being most successful. Thomson and Williams II. were the best in the Junior portion of the School.

GENERAL REMARKS :

On the whole, the results of this Examination have been pleasing; the failures have generally been in the lowest part of the School, among boys who have recently come to us, but here we must make an exception in the case of Jekyll, who has

done excellent work, both in term and Examination. His first term has been one that he may justly feel some pride in, and must spur him on to greater efforts in the years that should be before him in this School. There is a very weak spot just above the middle of the School which needs careful strengthening, but of the first half-dozen boys in the School I can only speak in the highest praise. Their keenness has been quite exceptional, the competition between them very close, and the whole outlook for their future here seems most promising. I am glad to assure you that their foundations have been well laid, and all that they seem to need is to learn to stretch their legs a little faster without sacrificing thoroughness, which seems, and rightly so, to have been made the guiding principle in the past work of this School. In my colleague, Mr. Shearwood, the School has been and is being admirably served by a genial, conscientious, energetic Master, whose influence and general helpfulness is of great value.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BELL DAMS.

A Layman in the Australian Bush.

In 1903 Mr. Erskine went out to Australia, and joined the Bush Brotherhood, but after a time, he, with the Brotherhood's consent, started a mission to the natives of Australia, financing himself. His was one of the first efforts of the kind, for the natives had hitherto been almost entirely neglected, for the reason that the Church thought it best, as the Church-workers in Australia were so few, to start by attending to the white settlers' spiritual needs before those of the Aborigines. Mr. Erskine travels, as most of the Bush Brotherhood do, on a bicycle, or rather a luggage train, for it is wonderful the amount of luggage he manages to pack on that handy conveyance; on this bicycle he has travelled hundreds of miles, with only one serious accident, for he once smashed his bicycle and got badly cut about, but his plucky boy companion interpreter bound him up, and went and fetched a doctor, who said he would have certainly have bled to death if it had not been for Billy, his plucky little companion.

One of Mr. Ronald Erskine's most faithful converts is "Archdeacon Sam," as he is called, formerly a witch doctor, who travels over 20 miles every Saturday, so as to be able to take services on the following Sunday in the neighbouring villages. Another of Mr. Erskine's little friends is what he calls "Billy the Cadger," because whenever Mr. Erskine is camping near his village he always comes and stands outside his tent, and when asked by Mr. Erskine what he wants, replies, "Bread and jam," and when Mr. Erskine asks him what he ought to say, he answers, "No, please," or something quite as bad, but never gets the right words out.

The two great scourges of Australia are droughts and rabbits; Mr. Erskine has seen the latter, after a rabbit hunt, piled on top of each other three feet deep.

I only wish there were a few more in England, then perhaps we would have it for dinner more often. The way Mr. Erskine generally attracts the natives is by giving lantern lectures: some of them are very good; he managed to give one of his friends a good surprise once, for he took a snapshot of him when he was eating (a very common occurrence with *that* boy), and made the photograph into a lantern slide, and showed it at the next lecture he gave; you may imagine the boy's surprise.

Mr. Erskine makes it one of his great aims to convert the children, and he is well known in every Sunday School round his district, and the only thing he finds hard about this is, that as nearly all the boys are called "Billy," he finds it rather hard to distinguish them from one another. And now, as his five years are up, Mr. Erskine is back in England for a holiday, as he calls it, but I venture to think differently, for though he is in England, he has not forgotten his Australian friends, and is doing all he can for them in England, by giving lectures with lantern slides of all his work in Australia, and raising money to help him in his work. He is shortly going back to resume his evangelical work, and we all hope that before his efforts lies a bright and happy future, but I am afraid he finds, as all his brother workers do, that "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."

L. CHIDSON.

Football.

There has been this season the keenest rivalry to represent the School in the football field, and in consequence it has never been difficult to put a team in the field; what has not been so easy, owing to the disparity in age and size of the boys, is to get a well-balanced combination. Last term the weak spots in the XI. were very noticeable, and a rearrangement was necessary so as to bring all parts of the team into better harmony with one another. The change was an immediate success, and since it was made the strength of the side has been doubled, and almost every match has been won. "Unity is strength" is nowhere more true than in the football field, where intelligent combination under the tactful sway of an enthusiastic Captain will work wonders, even in indifferent material. Knight has amply justified the confidence with which his schoolfellows chose him as Captain; his cleverness, energy, and quickness to grasp the points of the game have given a lead which has been eagerly followed by other members of the team. Savill, whose play is Yorkshire to the core, Cooke, Crux, Williams, and Rivière have always given of their best, and while we can command such a standard of play we need never fear disaster.

The following boys have usually represented the School:—

Goal, Philpot.*

Backs, Barnes* and Rivière.*

Half-Backs, Crux,* Savill,* and Williams I.*

Forwards, Bavin, Johnson I.,* Chidson,* Knight,* and Cooke.*

* Colours.

It will be seen from this list of past fixtures and results that we have a lot of lee-way to make up against St. Paul's, and some nasty reverses to wipe out.

Westminster Abbey v. St. Paul's.

Year.	Won by.						Score.
1896	St. Paul's	..	..	..	9—0
1897	St. Paul's	..	..	..	6—0
1898	Westminster..	..	..	..	2—1
1899	Westminster..	..	..	..	2—1
1900	—	—
1901	—	—
1902	St. Paul's	..	..	..	3—2
1903	St. Paul's	..	..	..	13—0
1904	Westminster..	..	..	..	4—3
			St. Paul's	..	..	..	9—1
1905	St. Paul's	..	..	..	5—0
1906	Drawn	..	..	..	1—1
			St. Paul's	..	..	..	5—2
1907	Drawn	..	..	..	1—1
1908	St. Paul's	..	..	..	2—1
			Drawn	..	..	..	3—3
1909	Westminster..	..	..	..	3—0
..	Westminster..	..	..	..	3—0

Decani v. Cantoris, played at Vincent Square, Feb. 17th, 1909.

The match, which we have had to wait nearly a month for, at last arrived. Both teams were at full strength, with the exception of Francis from Decani, and Bridgman from Cantoris. The game started very evenly, but not long after the start Johnson II. gave his brother a splendid chance, which he took, and scored easily. Decani then got to work, and soon equalised, Chidson scoring. The game gradually got keener, everybody playing their hardest. After this Decani had most of the play, but Rivière and Bavin (backs) kept them from scoring. At half-time the score was still 1—1. After the interval, the game was very even, occasional rushes coming from Knight and Chidson, but they came to nothing. None of the Cantoris forwards did much, being well marked. Both sides were exhausted by now, and the game went a bit slack; but Knight played finely throughout. Result: Decani, 1; Cantoris, 1.

S. C. SAVILL.

The School v. St. Margaret's, Westminster, at Vincent Square, 18th Feb., 1909.

The School were not quite at full strength, being without Johnson I. The School won the toss, and had what little sun there was at their backs, the wind blowing across the ground. St. Margaret's initiated a slight attack, Rivière

relieving. St. Margaret's did most of the attacking, although Cooke sprinted away once, and ended up with a clever shot, which just skimmed the bar. The School forwards did not combine at all well, and St. Margaret's scored just before half-time. The School forwards re-started in dashing style, and after ten minutes' play, Crux, who was being tried at right wing, scored with an oblique shot. St. Margaret's defence got entangled, the School again scoring. St. Margaret's forwards tried very hard to equalise, but the School defence held out. Everybody played well. Result: School, 2; St. Margaret's, 1.

S. C. SAVILL.

Westminster Abbey Choir School v. St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School, played at Bellingham on Thursday, Feb. 25th.

In dull, but fine weather, this match was started. Westminster won the toss, and played with a strong wind at their backs. Pennington started the game for St. Paul's, but Westminster did all the attacking, and after 15 minutes' play, a clever shot by Chidson gave Westminster the lead. Directly after this, a blizzard broke over the ground, and lasted for fully 10 minutes, during which Knight increased Westminster's lead. After half-time, St. Paul's left wing gave Crux and Barnes a good deal of trouble, but they did not score. The game was contested chiefly in the St. Paul's half of the field, but Helder I., who had been well marked by Rivière and Williams I., got away on the right wing, but his shot hit the side of the net. Westminster thereupon set up a hot attack, chiefly conducted by Cooke and Savill [and Knight.—ED.]. During one of his rushes, Cooke got slightly hurt, and the game was stopped for some moments; following this, Knight scored for Westminster with a long shot, out of the goalkeeper's reach, and we won by 3 goals to none. Our congratulations to Crux, who was awarded his colours after the game.

J. W. KNIGHT.

Westminster Abbey Choir School v. New Beacon School, Sevenoaks, played at Sevenoaks, March 18th, 1909.

This match was played under very unfavourable circumstances, the weather being bad, and the ground uneven. We won the toss, and decided to play with the wind slightly in our favour. Our forwards soon got to work, and after ten minutes' play Knight scored for us. After this, the game was very even, the ball being in mid-field nearly all the time. At half-time the score was still 1—0 in our favour. On re-starting play, the game grew fiercer, but neither side scored, although we had several shots. Their forwards did not seem to be able to get away, and our goalkeeper did not receive a single shot from them. The most notable players were: Knight, Cooke, Crux, and Rivière; Savill also played up to his usual form. No more goals were added to the score, and the game resulted in a win for us by 1 goal to 0.

F. H. PHILPOT.

List of Fixtures and Results, 1908-9.

Date.	Opponents.	Where played.	Goals.	
			For.	Agst.
Oct. 14.	Abbotshill School	Paddington Recr. . .	13 ..	0
„ 22.	St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School..	Bellingham ..	3 ..	3
„ 23.	St. Margaret's, Westminster ..	Vincent Square ..	2 ..	1
„ 29.	Abbey School, Beckenham ..	Beckenham ..	1 ..	8
Nov. 11.	Stratheden House School ..	Blackheath ..	2 ..	6
„ 25.	Belmont House School ..	Blackheath ..	9 ..	0
Dec. 17.	Stratheden House School ..	Blackheath ..	0 ..	2
Jan. 7.	St. Mary's, Reigate	Reigate	4 ..	5
„ 8.	St. Margaret's, Westminster ..	Vincent Square ..	8 ..	3
Feb. 17.	Decani v. Cantoris	Vincent Square ..	1 ..	1
„ 18.	St. Margaret's, Westminster ..	Vincent Square ..	2 ..	1
„ 25.	St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School..	Bellingham ..	3 ..	0
Mar. 18.	New Beacon House School..	Sevenoaks	1 ..	0
April 1.	St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School..	Bellingham ..	3 ..	0
„ 10.	St. Margaret's, Westminster ..	Vincent Square ..	—	—