

KINGHAM HILL MAGAZINE

No. 29.

DECEMBER, 1923.

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CHRONICLE OF EVENTS.

Mr. F. Rose, Honorary Secretary of the Kingham Hill Cricket Club, supplies the following report of the various games played during the season 1923 :—

FIRST ELEVEN.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. of Inns.	Times nt. out	Most in Inns.	Total Runs	Aver.
F. G. Goddard	16	3	90*	585	45
H. Silver	11	2	27*	131	14.5
F. Rose	13	0	49	155	11.9
P. Floyd	13	1	36	134	11.1
C. Melton	16	1	28	137	9.1
L. Osborne	10	4	16*	54	9
W. McSweeney	9	3	20	54	9
T. Barlow	13	1	30	91	7.5
J. Jones	8	0	30	58	7.2
G. Bond	14	0	20	96	6.8
J. Farmbrough	12	0	20	66	5.5
E. Vecchi	13	0	23	65	5

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Aver
J. Farmbrough	143	19	365	37	9.8
F. Rose	143	21	410	38	10.7
F. Goddard	60	13	178	15	11
H. Silver	35	3	169	11	15
P. Floyd	23	1	88	4	22
J. Jones	26	3	111	5	22
C. Melton	13	1	69	3	23

SECOND ELEVEN.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. of Inns.	Times nt. out	Most in Inns.	Total Runs	Aver.
A. Rodwell	18	0	43	189	10.5
L. Osborne	7	0	23	65	9.2
T. Pitt	9	0	19	80	8.8
G. Hancox	16	4	16	102	8.5
H. Mitchell	16	0	28	104	6.5
A. Osborne	17	0	37	103	6.5
F. White	12	1	20	66	6
C. Orris, Jr	17	2	24*	85	5.6
W. Coates	18	2	33	81	5.06
R. Jenkins	9	1	14	37	4.6
C. Orris, Sr	16	1	31	63	4.2
A. Topp	16	3	14*	53	4.07

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Aver
H. Mitchell	73	13	218	39	5.5
A. Rodwell	27	1	89	15	5.9
C. H. Orris	19	1	64	10	6.4
G. Hancox	21	2	57	8	7.12
C. Orris, Sr	65	8	251	35	7.17
T. Pitt	36	10	110	11	10
W. Coates	69	8	231	22	10.5

Last season's cricket was not so successful as we hoped it would be, but holidays interfered with the games. On one occasion both our regular bowlers were absent, which was a great handicap. The first eleven played 15 matches,

winning 7 and losing 8. The second eleven played 12 matches, winning 5 and losing 7. We hope to do better next season. There were a good number of games arranged in the evening with outside teams in which we were nearly always victorious. Harry Mitchell in one of these games scored 94 runs—a very creditable performance.

On Sunday, September 9th, in the afternoon, the Rev. L. Lloyd preached the annual sermon on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He gave a very interesting description of the Chinese and their habits, and incidentally recited our Lord's Prayer in Chinese. He chose for his text, 2 Timothy iii., 15, "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." The offertory amounted to £2 1s.

The School was re-opened on Monday, September 17th, after the usual six weeks' holiday.

During the absence of our Chaplain, the Rev. Mitchell Carruthers, the services in the Chapel were taken by the following Evangelists: Sunday, September 16th, Mr. P. G. Smith. September 23rd, Mr. E. Reeve. September 30th, Mr. T. Goudie. October 7th, Mr. L. Rawlings.

On Thursday, September 27th, the elder boys had the pleasure of a trip to Shipton, where they witnessed a cricket match on behalf of the Oxford Hospital. The rival teams were captained respectively by Messrs. Goddard and Hartley. Composing the teams were several prominent cricketers, viz., Dipper, Astill, Mills, Root, Parkin, Durston, etc., who gave their services. There were several hundreds of spectators, and a goodly sum was forwarded to the hospital. Our Scouts rendered great service on this occasion.

Our Harvest Festival was held on Sunday, October 14th. The Chapel was decorated by the boys and teachers. Our Chaplain took for his subject "The Last Great Harvest."

The anniversary of Trafalgar Day, October 21st, coming on Sunday, we celebrated it in School on the previous Saturday. At 11.45 a.m. the school being assembled, Mr. Young gave the boys a short address, in which he impressed upon them what a great privilege it is to be an Englishman and how we should value that privilege and live up to it. He also made the boys a present of a piece of Nelson's ship, the "Victory," forwarded by request, from Admiral of the Fleet Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee, Bart., G.C.B., K.C.M.G. The flag was hoisted on the 21st as usual.

On Sunday afternoon, October 28th, the address was given by the Rev. Dibben of Daylesford. We were very pleased to have him with us again.

On November 3rd we had a visit from one of our very old Sheffield boys, A. G. Lewis. We were very pleased to see him, and feel sure that the book* which he gave Mr. Young for the Library will be read by the boys with great interest.

* "The Great White South," Experiences with Captain Scott's South Pole Expedition, by H. G. Ponting, F.R.G.S.

On November 5th our huge bonfire in the furze-field was lit by Mr. Young at 6 p.m. The "guy" was a great success and caused much amusement among the boys. The bonfire lasted a long time and was conspicuous for some distance around Kingham Hill.

"Armistice Day," November 11th, falling on Sunday, its observance took place at the commencement of the Morning Service. After the "two minutes' silence" the National Anthem was sung. In the afternoon our Chaplain spoke of episodes connected with the Great War and of the lessons of Peace. National hymns were sung at both services.

We deeply regret to record the death of Jack Remfry, which took place at his home in London. He was a bright, intelligent and lovable boy. Our deepest sympathy is with his mother and brother in their bereavement.

On Saturday, December 1st, Kingham Hill School team (Captain. S. Dickens) journeyed to Shipton, where they met a representative team of boys. A good game ensued and resulted after a hard tussle in a draw, both sides scoring 3 goals. The return match takes place at Kingham Hill on Saturday, December 15th.

Mr. F. Rose, Hon. Secretary of the Kingham Hill Football teams, gives the following details of their doings this season.

1st XI. Played 7. Won 4. Lost 2. Drawn 1.

2nd XI. Played 4. Won 2. Lost 2.

In the Rollright Engineering Cup :—

1st Round. Kingham Hill 3. Long Compton 1.

2nd Round. Kingham Hill 4. Great Tew 2.

In the Hospital Competition :—

1st Round. Chipping Norton 3. Kingham Hill 2.

December 6th, Polling Day for the General Election, caused some little excitement on the Hill. We were pleased to hear that North Oxfordshire remained true and that our candidate, Major Edmondson, was again our representative.

We wish all our readers "A Happy Christmas" and "A Bright New Year."

T. W. SCARFE.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LATIMER HOUSE,
December, 1923.

Hearty Good Wishes for a Happy Christmas and Bright and Prosperous New Year to all our friends.

Our best wishes to W. Searies on the occasion of his marriage. Though little known to those on Kingham Hill, he has resided at Latimer for several years.

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of Jack Remfry, on Friday, November 30th, and we are sure that all our readers will join us in sympathising with the bereaved relations.

A summary of the games played by Latimer F.C. has been handed to us by the Secretary and is as follows:—

Oct. 6—Datada Sports Club.	Home.	...	...	Won	4—1
		(V. Dack; R. Viner, 3.)			
13—Wharnccliffe Argyle.	Away.	...	...	Lost	0—5
20—Wharnccliffe Argyle.	Home.	...	...	Lost	1—2
		(Warn.)			
27—Longman F.C.	Away.	...	...	Won	6—1
		(Warn, 3; Fryer; V. Dack; Opponent.)			
Nov. 3—Hornsey Congregational F.C.	Home.	...	...	Won	5—4
		(A. Mathias, 2; Fryer; R. Viner; Opponent.)			
24—Isledon F.C.	Home.	...	...	Won	4—3
		(Warn, 2; V. Dack; H. Mathias.)			
Dec. 8—Cutlans F.C.	Away.	...	...	Lost	3—4
		(A. Mathias; V. Dack; H. Mathias.)			

The following old boys have paid us a visit since our last publication:—

A. Camp, H. Cornock, Ex-Sgt. Crosby, E. Dray, G. Hammond, F. Henley, F. Hyde, A. Jarvis, S. Jarvis, A. Maskell, A. Mathias, H. Mathias, A. Noble, W. Searies, W. Silver, W. Stiles, W. Stone, C. Viner.

RED AND GREEN.

POPULATION AND THE FUTURE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A little over a month ago the British Empire held its "Gathering of the Clans"—I refer to the meeting of the Imperial Conference in London—and I suppose it was the most important and momentous ever yet held. Numerous problems, many of a complex and delicate nature, requiring patience, skilful handling and sound judgment awaited solution; the atmosphere and manner of approach of the Conference, the frank and open exchange of views resulted in a clearer understanding and the suggestion of many valuable policies for the future.

But what struck me most was the focussing of attention, almost daily, upon two points, namely, the aim and the needs of our Colonies. The whole aim or policy of our Colonial Prime Ministers can be summed up in a few words as the attainment of a unified and strengthened Empire, secure for all time in power and prosperity; and their needs—men, money, markets. It is about the **first of these urgent needs**, the relationship between population or

man power and the future of the Empire that I want to write. For I believe that the strength of this Empire of ours lies in its man power and on its distribution within the Empire. A policy based on this principle is a policy of strength and security.

We have been told that the British Empire reached the zenith of its power during the Great War, and one wonders whether that power and majesty can be maintained or will one day decline. There have been great Empires and nations in the past—the Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Persians, Grecian and Roman Empires, the Empire of Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire. All have fallen! The German Empire, though not a world power, has fallen also. Is this mighty Empire of ours doomed, and will another nation take our place? Have the white races of the world yet to meet the coloured in a terrible and awful struggle for supremacy? No one can deny the probability of such a thing happening in the future. If you are interested in these subjects I would ask you to consider a few facts and the conclusions which may be drawn. These I will arrange under different headings.

(a) *The Pacific Question.*

The population of the world is about 1,650,000,000 people. The white races number 500 millions. The coloured races number 1,150 millions.

There is, therefore, a preponderance of coloured people. The whites are supreme because they have made greater advances in civilization, and have progressed further in the arts and sciences. They have been quick to adapt themselves to changing conditions, to understand the laws of nature. But the coloured races are awakening, East is following West along the line of civilization. Obstacles are being removed, difficulties overcome in many spheres. The Universities of Europe have their annual quota of coloured students. These young men do not remain in Europe after the completion of their studies, but return home to spread the learning they have acquired. As an instance of the advance of these races witness the claim of the Indian representatives at the Imperial Conference. They demanded equality with the white races of the British Empire, the same status as held by the other white members of the Empire.

The United States of America have been and are very reluctant in participating in European affairs, in the League of Nations and other Conferences, but what of her enthusiasm for the Washington Conference on Armaments. Was her only reason for limitation of armaments a desire to economise in naval expenditure and to remove the irritating causes of war, or was she afraid of Japan and the latter's increasing influence and activity in the Pacific?

The British Empire comprise about one quarter of mankind, but the ratio of white to coloured people in the Empire is about one to six. Think of this—six coloured to every white man. The whites are of British stock and Christians, but the coloured are of many races and tribes, of diverse religions. Moreover, many of the latter are war loving, blood is their creed; and, remember, not all the coloured races desire British rule—they hate it. But under British law and order these races prosper and increase in numbers.

Populations :—Japan has 376 people to the square mile; China has 225 people to the square mile; India has 158 people to the square mile; Australia has 2 people to the square mile; New Zealand has 11 people to the square mile.

Distances :—From Japan and China to Australia, 3,500 miles; from Great Britain to Sydney, Australia, 12,000 miles; from Great Britain to China, 11,000 miles.

I would now like to call your attention to the recent utterances of three men. Dr. Vaughan Cornish, at the British Association meeting at Liverpool, on 13th September, gave a very interesting account of the Murray River Basin in Australia. This basin, in the heart of Australia, and not far from the brown coal deposit in South Victoria, was a combination of fertile soil, forcing sun, water for irrigation and cheap electric power. Here was enormous wealth, capable of supporting millions of people. And yet, although equal in size to France, Italy and Germany combined, which had a population of more than 130 millions, this wonderful area had only a population of 3 millions.

Speaking of his tour and experiences, Mr. Beach Thomas said that in the South West corner of Western Australia is a district equal in size to the British Isles and of great potential wealth. Its soil rich and various, climate equable, rainfall plentiful, rivers and inlets full of fish, plenty of hard wood forests, and yet it only supports less than 200,000 people. It could and should support several millions.

The Prime Minister of Australia, speaking in London during the Conference, warned us of the danger of this lack of population. It was imperative that Australia should be populated and developed, otherwise it would be impossible to hold it indefinitely as part of the Empire or to ensure its defence. All round Australia, in the Pacific, there were teeming millions. Australia had the greatest undeveloped lands, and sooner or later these teeming millions would need more elbow room, more territory for their expansion, and Australia would have to fight for her existence. With pride, Mr. Bruce declared that Australia was determined to keep British, and by setting up a barrier in Tropical Australia between the white and coloured races and offering inducements to British emigrants, Australia was 95 per cent. pure British stock.

The conclusions which may be drawn from these facts are fairly obvious, I think. If we want Australia to remain part of our Empire, secure from the Pacific danger, then Australia must increase her population. And her stock must be British. The same applies to New Zealand. They both need skilled and unskilled emigrants prepared for hard work. They must be industrious and thrifty, energetic and patient, physically and mentally sound. Farm workers are in great demand and a little capital enhances their chances of ownership.

(b) *The Position in Canada.*

Populations :—U.S.A., 40 people to the square mile. Canada, 2 people to the square mile.

From 1901 to 1920 the total number of new British settlers in Canada was 1,249,269.

The total number of United States settlers during that period was 1,318,469.

Whereas the British securities in Canada amounted to 155,000,000 dollars, the American securities amounted to 550,000,000 dollars.

Since 1914 the United States manufacturers had doubled their factories in Canada.

In the three Prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there are 25 million acres of land available for homesteads.

There are large tracts also in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. These are all Crown lands. In addition, there are several million acres of land belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Hudson's Bay and other Companies awaiting settlement. The forest area of Canada is about 390,000 square miles.

The land and natural resources are there in superabundance; her virgin lands, industries, mines and forests only require development, and for that she needs an increased population. Canada, too, needs the British type of emigrant if she is to remain a British Dominion. She needs workers, and only those prepared and physically able to withstand the hard life of settlers.

(c) *South Africa.*

In South Africa there is a native population of about 6 millions and a white population of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million. In Natal there were 160,000 Indians and a minority of British settlers.

It was this superiority of coloured over white which made impossible the granting of the franchise to the native. If they had equal manhood suffrage in South Africa, the whites would be swamped by the blacks, declared General Smuts recently.

South Africa, indeed the whole continent of Africa, contains vast wealth and all sorts of resources in great abundance. Copper in plenty, cotton and tobacco fields awaiting development and extension.

Again we must draw the same conclusion as in (a) and (b)—men are wanted in large numbers. And, as before, if we wish to retain South Africa, these emigrants must be of British stock.

But a different type is needed. South Africa has plenty of native unskilled labour, hence what she needs most is the skilled artisan type of settler, one who could fill the position of overseer. "And they must have capital too," says General Smuts.

(d) *The British Isles and the Dominions.*

The dangers which I have alluded to are increased by the fact that the component parts of the Empire, instead of being one compact land mass, are scattered in every quarter of the globe, separated from each other by vast oceans and thousands of miles. In the event of attack on any one member of this Empire, help from the other Dominions and the Mother Country would

take not hours or days, but in some cases weeks to arrive. It is, therefore, in the interests not only of the Dominions concerned but of the Empire as a whole, that this lack of population should be remedied immediately and emigration expedited. Moreover, the statistics of and reports from the Colonies prove conclusively that Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa are all able to support a larger population.

Where are these people to come from? The answer is fairly obvious—Great Britain. We have in Great Britain a population of about 43,000,000 people which outnumbers the combined populations of Canada, Newfoundland, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand in the proportion of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. To put it another way, Australia's population is slightly less than three-fourths that of Greater London; New Zealand's nearly equal to that of Warwickshire; Canada just under that of Lancashire. About 70,000 more people live in Bradford than in the whole of Newfoundland. The white population of South Africa is roughly one and a half times that of the city of Glasgow. These comparisons which I have given are by the Editor of the *Economist*.

In spite of emigration from these shores, the increase of population of Great Britain from 1901—11 exceeded the increase of all the Dominions by more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ million.

And now consider areas. The area of Great Britain is 122,000 square miles. The area of the Dominions is 7,320,000 square miles. This means that Great Britain has 389 people to the square mile (600 in England); South Africa 14.7 people to the sq. mile; New Zealand 12.27 people to the sq. mile; Canada 2.45 people to the sq. mile; Australia 2 people to the sq. mile. Here, surely, the plea for migration of surplus people within the Empire is justified! This country has more than enough people, ought not we to listen to the cry of our Colonies and supply their need? Would it not help to solve our tragic unemployment problem?

Emigration Schemes.

I would now like to call your attention to the many schemes of migration in existence to-day. In 1922 the Empire Settlement Act was passed. This was a direct outcome of the war and based upon recommendations of a Committee appointed to examine the whole question of emigration. Its chief concern was the ex-Service man and his family, and the Act deals with State aided emigration and co-operation with the Dominions. A sum of money not to exceed £3,000,000 is to be voted yearly by Parliament for the working of this scheme. The two chief schemes are (1) land development or settlement; and (2) to facilitate settlement in or migration to any part of the Dominions.

Under this scheme fares to New Zealand for emigrants have been reduced to £5 10s. 0d., £11 and £16 10s. 0d. for juveniles, married men and single men, respectively. In cases of necessity, the whole amounts are loaned. Builders, servants and farm workers are admitted without nomination.

The Australian schemes include land settlement, nomination and farm training for boys.

In addition to these official schemes there are those of private bodies and individuals. The Child Emigration Society possess 3,000 acres in Australia and have built homes on the cottage system for 200 children. Here they receive education and training before placing on a farm. The Church Army send to Australia and Canada, under their farm training scheme, 600 boys yearly. The Salvation Army send 900 youths yearly and the Waifs and Strays Society, the Y.M.C.A., Dr. Barnardo's and other bodies all send their quota. This all sounds excellent and should meet the needs of our Dominions, but what are the facts?

(1) Lt.-Col. Buckley, Parliamentary Secretary to Overseas Trade Department, replying to a question asked in the House of Commons on November 14th, said that up to October 31st of this year only £217,190 had been actually spent out of the £3,000,000 voted.

(2) From August, 1922, to April, 1923, Canada received 45,000 British emigrants, and the Canadian Government Superintendent of Immigration said it was not enough. Canada wanted thousands more every year and could find work for them.

(3) Mr. Bruce said that, after 18 months' working of the Act, only 31,832 emigrants had been settled, instead of 75,000.

(4) Every Dominion reported an excess of men over women emigrants in 1921, and women were needed urgently.

(5) There is a large migration of people from this country to parts of the world other than the British Empire. In 1913 nearly 500,000 emigrants left Great Britain. Of every 100 of these—

42	went to	North America (Canada),
17	„	Australia,
5	„	South Africa,
5	„	Other Colonies,
27	„	U.S.A.,
4	„	Other countries.

That is to say, 31 out of every 100 went out of the Empire. This is a serious loss to the Empire and again to those countries which receive them.

Causes of the Partial Failure.

(1) Political changes and economic laws in Australia and Canada interfere with free migration.

(2) Seasonal changes.

(3) Colonies cannot take more emigrants than they can absorb. The land must be developed; roads and railways made, forests and scrubs cleared, and markets for productions found. This means time and money.

(4) The passage money is too great for many would be emigrants.

(5) Fear, on the part of many people, to embark on the unknown. An instinctive dislike of leaving home and friends and of becoming a stranger in a strange country.

Remedies and Suggestions.

Many suggestions have been made recently to overcome these difficulties. It seems very easy to transfer an overcrowded population to large empty spaces until you come to act. It cannot be done by simply giving a word of command to some official, neither can it be done in a single night. The first principle of all migration is that the plan and policy must be made in the Dominions and not in London. There must be a plan which will stand for unity and continuity, and provision must be made for the reception and welfare of the settler until he is placed.

Some of the suggestions put forward include :—

(1) The speeding up of development. Local Governments to be assisted in this by grants from the Mother Country.

(2) Increase Empire Trade.

(3) Reduce fares. Shipping companies to be approached to formulate a scheme of contracting to take so many emigrants yearly (number guaranteed by Government) at reduced fares.

(4) Recognition of the Human Touch in Emigration. Giving introductions to friends in the Colonies, settling emigrants in Communities. Each district to adopt a county or town in England.

(5) Offer inducements to settle in the Colonies and thereby prevent the continual drain on the Empire's population.

(6) Advertise schemes and organise lectures to bring before the people of this country the prospects offered to settlers in the Dominions. These lectures could be illustrated by the use of films and slides. Every town should receive a visit from Dominion agents.

These valuable suggestions, if adopted, would assist emigration and help to people our empty Colonies. The numbers of emigrants would steadily increase and a time would come when our Colonies would be able to absorb more people than Great Britain could send. Meanwhile, we must act, for we shall never retain the present unity and security of this great Empire, until we are free from the menace which assails us in our Colonies.

A. F. JARVIS.

THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS.

(Continued.)

On arrival at Porte Cortez we again found everything ready for defence.

The American ship had also arrived, so the two captains went ashore at once to interview the town Commandant, with excellent results.

It was agreed that the Royalist troops were to evacuate and leave the town under the care of the British and American ships.

The same evening large parties of the ship's company were sent ashore to keep order.

With a few other mariners I was billeted in a house stripped bare of furniture. Our task was to patrol the town and disarm the inhabitants. Some of our fellows were also detailed to patrol the main street in a goods train, displaying a machine gun. This was a most unpleasant task. The trucks rocked and bumped over the uneven metals, and the funnel belched forth more soot than smoke.

The above may seem misleading, as it is a rather unusual sight for a train to career down a main street. The fact is there is only one street in the town and that also consists of the railway. The town is actually built on a swamp, and with the exception of a few solid patches on either side on which houses are built, the main street or railway is the only solid ground. Other houses are built on piles over the swamps.

These swamps teem with "malaria carrying mosquitos" and very few Europeans can survive the whole year round because of this. The majority of them—consisting chiefly of fruit merchants, consuls, etc.—spend six months only of each year in the place. Quinine is a necessity, and unless one saturates oneself with it, the fever soon asserts itself, as later events will prove.

On the outskirts of the town there is a beautiful large lagoon or lake, on the shores of which a large fruit warehouse, owned by a German, was built. Here our headquarters were billeted.

The natives could speak very little English, but there were a number of West Indians who had emigrated and who could act as interpreters.

We got no rest that night but carried out our patrolling at frequent intervals. The following morning our duck suits were so dirty through the train dust that we were obliged to don very light costumes, and wash and dry them in the sun. The sun was so hot that we managed this by breakfast time.

After breakfast we again shifted billets, this time to the railway offices and store. Here we made ourselves very comfortable. We had no beds, of course, but managed to get some straw and, what was more important still, mosquito nets. We slept in great comfort that night.

On the second day we witnessed the departure of the town troops. They were a pitiful looking lot, and we felt really sorry for them. We in England should be thankful that we live in a country where a certain value is placed on human life. In this particular Central American republic, the inhabitants are seldom at peace with each other. They are generally led astray by unscrupulous men who trade on their fiery and excitable nature for personal gain. Very little value is placed upon human life. A horse or cattle thief is looked upon as a much worse criminal than a murderer.

During the afternoon I happened to be passing through the main street, when I noticed a commotion outside a wooden building; on going closer and peering over the shoulders of the onlookers I saw two men fighting with machettes. The machette is a very sharp weapon, similar to the instrument

used for cutting English hedges. The natives here use them for cutting down banana bunches. They become very clever in their use and seldom go about without them. Fights with these weapons are very frequent.

One man had been very badly cut about the head, which was bleeding so badly that he was literally smothered in blood. The onlookers parted the fighters as soon as they saw me and about the same time our Sick Bay Steward came along on his daily round of quinine dosing. We did what we could for the wounded fighter but he sank rapidly and died from loss of blood.

The following day I had to take charge of the police station with four English and four American mariners. My duties were similar to that of police inspector. The town prison was attached to the station, and this also was placed under my charge. The prison consisted of a large room, bare of furniture, with a door made of stout iron bars, through which the prisoners were handed their meals.

There were ten prisoners when we took charge. Five were murderers, three were in custody for horse stealing, one for owning several houses which a magistrate thought should not belong to him, and the other for treason.

The government paid the prisoners a few pence a day to provide themselves with food. The poor fellows were absolutely at the mercy of their friends or passers-by (whom they would communicate with through the iron bars) to obtain supplies.

The prisoners—specially the murderers—were very rough, fierce-looking men, but they gave us no trouble.

Our first job was to get some disinfectant and make the prisoners thoroughly scour the station and prison from top to bottom. We then made them bathe in a solution of hot water and Condy's fluid.

Our rations here were extremely bad. We ran out of vegetables and had no means of baking bread. The Americans were fed extremely well, but we lived on half a pound of meat and ship biscuits daily. The former so tough that few could eat it, the latter was the good old type of biscuit so well-known for its inhabitants and difficulty to chew.

Adjoining the Church was an English Mission Church, built on piles. My attention was drawn to this building on the first evening of taking over the station, by a most familiar noise, namely, the cackle of chickens going to roost. On inspection I found that perches had been placed under the house for the use of hundreds of chickens, that we had seen wandering about the streets during the daytime.

Hundreds of chickens! and we were being fed on maggoty biscuits. I asked one of the prisoners—a negro who could speak English—whom they belonged to. The Aldecree of Police (Chief of Police), said he!

I had become the Aldecree of Police! The first duties of an officer—even if he is only a very junior non-commissioned one—is to see to the comfort of those under him.

I had ordered one man to make an open air oven and prepare fuel, when the captain's cook arrived. "Hullo, cookie!" I said, "do you want to join

Christmas's army? They would make you a general in no time." "No!" he replied. "I'm not bloodthirsty." "At least," he added, "not for human blood, but I am for chickens! I have been searching the town for some one to sell me some but cannot find out whom they belong to!"

"How many do you require?" I asked. "One a day!" was the reply. To cut a long story short, three chickens were sent to the ship daily, two returned ashore in a wooden box ready cooked, and the other graced the captain's table.

The town was placed under martial law. The inhabitants had to be indoors by 9 p.m. It was our duty to see this done. It was also our duty to relieve the natives of firearms.

The inhabitants respected the British, probably because the latter are not overbearing, do not interfere with the liberty of the town people, or their property. But they do not disguise their dislike for the Americans, who are not so particular as the British in these respects.

The mariners were sent out to patrol the roads day and night. This duty was not unpleasant during daylight, but it was certainly not pleasant at night. There were no street lamps and the tropical night is a very dark one. We had some very amusing experiences until we became accustomed to the work.

One such happened on the second evening. A very young American mariner was sent out to patrol the road to our right. He had only gone a few yards when we heard a shot. Calling to the others to follow with fixed bayonets, I rushed out, found the patrol, and enquired what was wrong. "Someone shot at me and hit me!" was the reply.

"Where were you hit?" I asked. "I don't know!" he said. "Well! if you can walk go into the station and we will search for your assailant." We searched high and low. The only living being we encountered was a pig which one of our fellows nearly stabbed with his bayonet. We gave up our search and returned to the station. I had got an idea! "Show me your rifle," I said to the recruit. On examining, sure enough, I found an empty cartridge. He had had his rifle slung across his shoulder with trigger cocked. The rifle he had was of a peculiar make and would go off at a very light touch on the trigger. He had evidently caught the trigger in his clothing or accidentally touched it, and the kick of the rifle had made him think someone had shot him. On the same day a woman was brought to the station the worse for drink. She had also been stabbed through the hand. A little later a negro came along and reported that a native had been shot in the chest and was now in a house near by.

I sent a marine for the trolley, another to headquarters, to inform the doctor, and, leaving one at the station, I went along to investigate. I found the wounded man in a house surrounded by his friends. There was a strong smell of spirits in the room and every other indication to prove that the occupants and their friends had been drinking freely. Several were in possession of firearms; these I at once took charge of. Trying to assume an air of wisdom, I examined the wound and asked how it happened. I was told that

the injured man was walking by the lagoon when he was fired at. I knew this to be false because our Headquarters were situated there and would have heard the shot, and in addition, his shirt was scorched round the bullet hole, proving that he was without his coat at the time. I asked to be shown the coat he was wearing, the examination of which left me no doubt. I then remembered the woman in prison with the stabbed finger. "You weren't shot by the lagoon," I said, "but in this house and by a woman whom you tried to kill with a knife." He stoutly denied this, but his guilty manner proved I was right. I told him to get ready for the doctor but he was afraid the doctor would cut him. He kept moaning and declaring that he was dying, and before I could get him on the trolley he insisted on stripping himself of his numerous silver rings, trinkets, watch, etc., and giving them to his relatives, friends, etc., as mementos after his death.

We took him to Headquarters and I explained everything to an American officer on duty. Our doctor was on the ship and would not be ashore until the following morning. We discovered that the wound was not serious, so we washed and dressed it. The officer (who could speak Spanish) then explained to him that he was quite all right, was not likely to die, and would be better in a few days. On hearing this he sprang up from his seat, dashed up the road without waiting for the trolley, and was soon out of sight. On arriving at his house I discovered him arguing with his relatives about the return of his treasures. The thoughts of having distributed his jewellery had caused him to rush away on hearing that he would live. I cautioned the people in the house and returned to the station.

We were only allowed to drink water supplied from the ship, and did not get too much of this. We discovered that the milk from large green coconut pods made an excellent drink, so we kept a supply in the station from the surrounding trees, which we soon learned to climb.

About ten days after our arrival, General Christmas's Army arrived in small coastal schooners. He was given to understand that until the town was officially turned over to him his troops would not be allowed to land. This was resented very much by Christmas because his troops could scarcely move in the schooners and were feeling the effects very much. The captain of our ship, after much discussion, finally allowed the troops to come ashore, providing they remained in a large building on the quay, belonging to the Cable Company.

It fell to my lot to be transferred from the police station to guard this building. I was given 4 marines for sentry work. There were over three hundred rebel troops, all armed to the teeth. Their respect for the English was such that they allowed themselves to be confined in the building with such a small guard, without a murmur.

We felt anything but comfortable whilst carrying out this and were very pleased when, after about thirty-six hours, the Captain officially turned the town over to General Christmas on the understanding that the rights of the inhabitants and property would be respected.

By this time a large number of the ship's company had contracted malaria and were confined to their hammocks in the forecabin of the ship.

The day after the town was turned over to Christmas, H.M.S. "Melpomene" arrived to relieve us. The "Brilliant's" ship's company was relieved of its duties ashore, and on account of the large number of malaria cases, the ship was ordered to Jamaica. Just before leaving we sustained a very sad accident. A party of bluejackets and marines were away with a boat, bathing near the beach, when one of the number—a seaman—dived over the side of the boat in shallow water and fractured his spine. He died a week or two later in Jamaica.

On arrival in Jamaica the sick cases had amounted to well over 100, including myself. We were transferred to the military hospital. Here we remained until convalescent, the ship in the meantime leaving for Bermuda.

We eventually were picked up by H.M.S. "Scylla," a ship about to pay off on arrival in England. This ship took us to Bermuda, where we picked up the "Brilliant."

I have never seen so many animal pets gathered together—outside a Zoo—as there were on the "Scylla." There were hundreds of monkeys, goats, birds, etc. Some of the former were so small that you could hold them in the palm of the hand. I heard later that of all the animals, etc., only two survived on arrival in England, namely, one small monkey and a baby alligator.

I am pleased to relate that we all pulled through the fever all right and very few of us suffered any after effects.

DOUGLAS BOARD.

A TALE OF CHRISTMASTIDE.

(This story is found in a manuscript written before 1400, and now in the British Museum. The author is unknown. I hope that some portion of the merit of the original remains in this version besides the motto at the end, which I have left unaltered. Needless to say, I have consulted translations.)

If you will listen a little while, I will tell you a wonderful adventure that happened at the court of Arthur.

Much feasting and jollity did the King make at Camelot for full fifteen days, and when New Year's Eve was come the tables were set up in the great hall to repeat the feast of Christmas Day. Here were gathered the most noble knights and the fairest ladies of the realm, and Queen Guinevere took her seat under the gorgeous canopy at the head of the table.

But Arthur kept his usual custom at the court, for on Feast days it was his manner not to eat until he had heard some marvellous tale of brave deeds, or met with some strange adventure to sharpen his appetite, and therefore he passed to and fro among the tables to see that all were served, or sat and talked with his friends and guests.

Scarcely had the feast begun when there rode into the hall the strangest knight that had ever entered the castle, and the feast was forgotten at the sight of him. He was tall and broad, and his beard was long, and he wore no armour, nor carried any sword, but his raiment and his horse, as well as the ornaments of his harness, were of the brightest green. Emeralds adorned his bridle; even his shoes and spurs were enamelled and polished in the same colour. In one hand he carried a branch of holly, and in the other a great axe all of green, and sharp as a razor.

Scornfully he looked over the goodly company, and rode further into the hall, seeking for the chief of that court. Then Arthur spoke and said, "Sir, you are welcome to this hall. Alight from your horse, and stay with us during this feast." "Nay," quoth the stranger, "I shall not tarry long. I am come because of the fame of the knights of this place, and I carry no armour, but this holly instead, as a token of peace. I crave nothing but a Christmas game, and if any here hold himself so hardy as to play, let him take this axe and strike me one blow, and then abide one stroke of mine. But I will not to-night take my blow, for I will allow the hardy knight a year and a day, and then claim my debt."

Now, if the knights were astonished at the first, even still more were they astonished at that speech, and they looked about them until the stranger began to taunt them, and to ask if this were the court of Arthur, or some other. And Arthur would himself have accepted the invitation, but Sir Gawayne said, "Sir, with your permission, I will take this in hand. But let me enquire the name of this Green Knight, and let him tell me the place where I must yield him his blow when the year and the day are passed." "That," said the Green Knight, "shall be told when thou hast struck."

Then he came down from his horse, handed the axe to Gawayne, and bared his neck. Gawayne was skilful with weapons, and at one stroke the head of the Green Knight rolled upon the floor.

Many then laughed, and said that Sir Gawayne would be well able to bear a blow from *that* knight in a year and a day!

But the Green Knight did not fall. He caught up his head by the hair, seized the bridle of his horse, and walked towards the door. Then he turned, and the head spoke:—"I am called the Knight of the Green Chapel. I charge you to seek me at the time appointed, as your promise is." And so he went out.

When Gawayne had returned to his seat, and Arthur had assured the Ladies that this was no more than a game, the feast went on, for the Knights would not let their wonder be seen.

II.

All quickly passed the four seasons of the year, until winter returned, and Gawayne was always in mind of his promise. Ten days before the end of the

year he rode forth to seek the Green Chapel, and he rode for seven without hearing any report of it.

Now it chanced that he came to a great castle, and he asked the lord of it for news of the Green Chapel. "For," said he, "if I find it not, my promise is broken," and he told him all the story. Then the lord laughed and promised Gawayne that he should rest in the castle for three days, for the Green Chapel was not above a mile from that place, and he entertained Gawayne at supper.

Now the lord of the castle was ready to go hunting on the morrow, and merrily he spake to his guest, "Sir, I will make a bargain. Whatever I gain in the hunt shall be yours, if you will give to me whatever comes to you while you stay resting at home." Gawayne did not care to accept a bargain so unfair, but the lord pressed him, and at last he consented, and all retired to sleep.

On the morrow came the lady of the castle to Gawayne, and enquired about the court of Arthur, and the Knights and Ladies there, and she gave Gawayne a gift, "For," said she, "it is the Season of gifts."

Towards evening the lord returned, bearing the boar that he had slain, and Gawayne gave him the gift he had received, and received the boar from the lord, and they spent the time in jollity. At supper they made the same bargain for the morrow, for the lord was then to hunt the wolf.

The next day the lady of the castle brought Gawayne another gift, and in the evening he exchanged it for the slain wolf, as was his promise. And they renewed their bargain for the third and last day.

Early in the morning the lady of the castle came again and said, "I know that you will ride to the Chapel of the Green Knight and receive a blow from him, and I am sorry. He is a pitiless man, and shows no mercy. He will strike heavily, and you are unprepared. But I will give you a green girdle. The wearer of it is proof against blows, and may it protect you on the morrow."

Then Sir Gawayne thought how the girdle would stand him in good stead, and he thanked the lady, and received it.

But when the lord returned from his hunting and brought the fox that he had slain, Gawayne took it, and thanked him, and said nothing of the girdle that was round his waist. Then they made merry till bed-time, and then went to rest.

III.

Long before the sun was up Sir Gawayne rode through the snow towards the Green Chapel, and at his call the Green Knight appeared as he was when Gawayne saw him first.

After little speech Gawayne knelt to receive his due; the axe glistened above him and swept down, but stopped ere it reached his bare neck. Gawayne flinched not a hair's breadth, but waited for the blow to fall. A second time

the axe flashed, and again it stopped short. Gawayne started not, but exclaimed, "Have done with this play, and take the debt that is yours."

Then the third time the axe descended, and this time there was fear in Gawayne's heart, and he shrank back as the edge of the weapon grazed his neck. But it bit no deeper, and in a moment Gawayne sprang up and snatched his sword, advancing on his opponent with wrath and valour. The Green Knight leaned on his axe and laughed, and said, "Bold knight, no man has done you wrong except yourself. The first time and the second time I struck and did you no harm, because for two days when I hunted (I am the lord of the castle) our bargain was kept. But the girdle of the third day is now round your waist, and I wonder not that you shrank from the third blow."

Then Sir Gawayne stood thoughtful for a long time, and he blushed for shame, and flung the girdle from him, and said, "Lo! there is the false thing! For fear of thy stroke cowardice seized me, and for covetousness I was false to my nature. Now am I faulty and false and fearful!"

It were long to tell how Merlin the Magician had planned this adventure to try if the Knight were true to his word, and how Gawayne journeyed back to the court of Arthur, and how he wore the green girdle ever after for punishment. It was a hard trial that he suffered, and long it was before he was absolved from fault, but yet methinks there be some who would not amiss ponder this story.

HONY SOYT QUI MAL PENC.

E. BOND.

