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South
Australian
Cricket.

Reminiscences.

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By CLARENCE MOODY.

1898.

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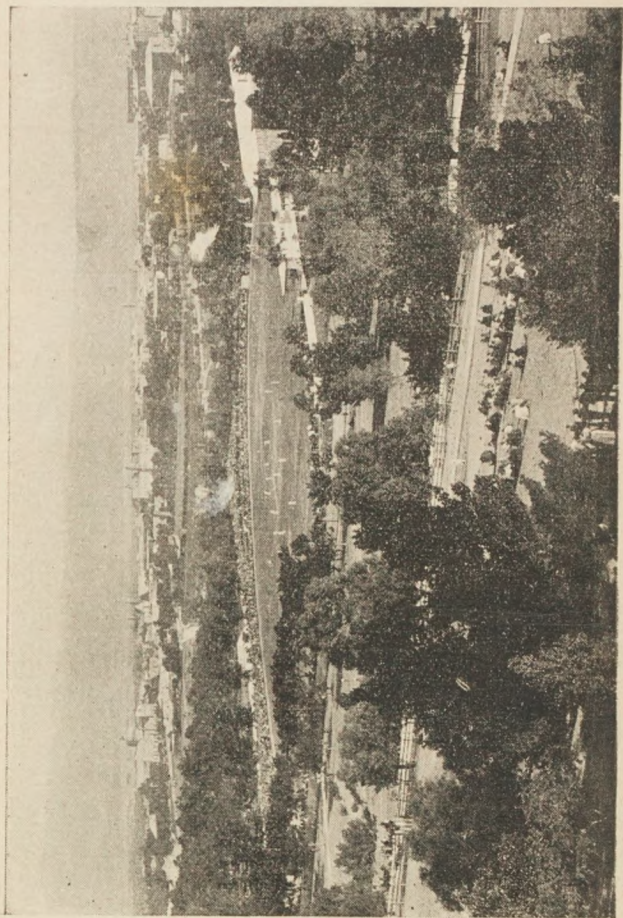


Photo. E. Gall

BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE ADELAIDE OVAL,

Taken during the Test Match, January, 1898.

D. S. Mitchell Esq
with G. G.'s
Compliments

South Australian
Cricket.



REMINISCENCES OF
FIFTY YEARS. . . .

By CLARENCE MOODY,
"Point," of the *South Australian Register*,
Evening Journal, and *Adelaide Observer*.

Adelaide :
W. K. THOMAS & Co., GRENFELL STREET.
1898.

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P R E F A C E.

WHEN I have been reading accounts of the early days of English cricket, most of them written during the past few years, I could not help being struck with the difficulties the writers laboured under in not always having reliable data at their command. It therefore occurred to me that while many of the pioneers of the game in South Australia were still amongst us I might obtain from them their recollections of cricket as it was played half a century ago. What they have told me is set down in the following pages, as well as a concise summary of more recent events.

I have to thank the gentlemen who so readily assisted me to make these reminiscences a fairly complete history of South Australian cricket.

C. P. M.

March 10, 1898.

CHAPTER I.

THE EARLY DAYS.

The Development of Athleticism—The First Club in South Australia—Arrival of John Cocker—The First Champion of South Australia—Cricket Then and Now—A Real Enthusiast—The First Round-arm Bowler—A Great Single Wicket Match—The Union Club—An Interesting Score—“I am not out, am I?” — Averages for '56-7 — Cricket Matches “hearty affairs”—The Ladies and Cricket.

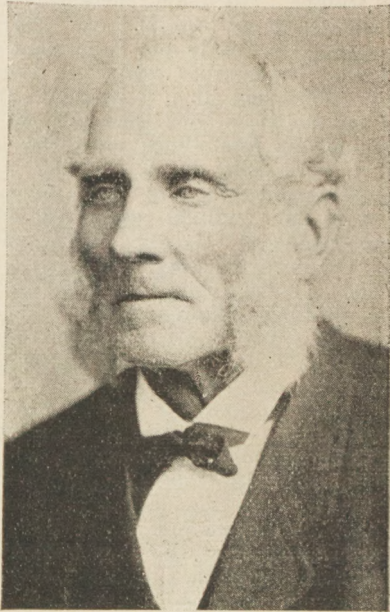
“The rise and development of athleticism until it has become a most important aspect of British life has been one of the marked characteristics of the Victorian era.” This was recently written by a keen observer. Earlier in this century and towards the close of the last one, however, games played no unimportant part in the daily lives of Englishmen. Did not the great Duke of Wellington once say in the House of Lords that his success in arms was owing in great measure to the manly sports of Great Britain, and to one sport above all—cricket? On another occasion the Iron Duke made that famous remark which is so frequently quoted, “Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of Eton.” That was the opinion of a celebrated soldier. What does the Church think of manly games? Read what Dean Hole wrote:—

“As a philosopher, physician, and priest I not only believe ‘that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,’ but that no good work can be done continuously without that variety of occupation which brings comparative rest and refreshes both body and mind. So long as we can run, as he who fields, and smite, as he who bats, and aim, as he who bowls; so long as we retain the keen eye, the strong arm, the lithe limbs, of the cricketer, we shall run after, and not before, our enemies, break through his defences, and demolish his batteries. He is no statesman, no philanthropist, much less a Christian, who does not prize, as of prime importance, the health—the physical as well as mental health—of a nation—the *mens sana in corpore sano*.”

Ours has ever been a sport-loving race, and for nearly two centuries cricket has been one of the most popular pastimes. A hundred years ago there were comparatively few clubs, and they were chiefly to be found in the south of England, but a writer who flourished about the time when the Queen began to reign said, “Cricket has a big charm with the people generally.” This was the period when South Australia was being colonized by the sturdy band of pioneers. It might almost be thought that when so much clearing and fencing and planting had to be done they would not have been able to find time for sports and games unless it were hunting the bounding kangaroo; but there were cricketers here in the earlier days.

One of the chief characteristics of cricket has always been its wonderful vitality and the fascination it has had for its votaries. It has been said that wherever two or three Englishmen are gathered together there you will find bats and balls and stumps. No doubt, therefore, some of the earliest settlers in South Australia — some of the sturdy men from Kent and Sussex, the counties in which cricket most flourished then — brought their cricket materials with them, and we can imagine our forefathers, when the long day's work was done, bringing forth their bats and balls, and under the shade of some giant eucalypt passing a pleasant hour at cricket. If there were not much cricket before, you may be sure that the game was keenly played after 1846, when the late John Cocker, the first champion of South Australia, arrived in the colony. So far as I have been able to ascertain from the old cricket identities of the colony, the only regular club that existed here in the early forties was the "Adelaide," but I have not found when it was formed. In 1846 the late John Collard Cocker arrived from England. Cocker had rubbed shoulders with the great English players of the day, with Alfred Mynn, Fuller Pilch, Lillywhite, Fenner, Felix, Wennan, and others. I have a record of a match played in 1842 between Kent and the rest of England, in which these famous cricketers took part, and Cocker went in first for the Merry Men of Kent, a circumstance which, considering the quality of the

company, indicates that he was highly regarded. His first-innings score of 11 looks insignificant, yet it was second highest. In the second innings, how-



THE LATE JOHN COCKER.

ever, he had to be content with 5. Cocker, besides being a batsman of no mean repute, was a good underhand bowler, in fact he was so fine an all-

round player that the great Alfred Mynn tried hard to dissuade him from emigrating to Australia. Mynn wanted him to remain in England and devote his energies entirely to cricket, but the adventurous young man could not be tempted, and to South Australia he came. He did not, however, when he left England forget all about cricket. No Englishman who has once played the game can do that. Cocker brought cricket material with him to the colony, and no sooner had he settled down than he organized the Kent and Sussex Club, which used to play near to his hotel, the Kentish Arms, at North Adelaide. With two clubs in existence came rivalry, and there were some keen matches played.

Let us for a moment glance at cricket as it is played now in South Australia and the game as it was in the time of our fathers. When we go to the Adelaide Oval on the occasion of an important match and see there the beautiful green carpet with the light patch in the centre upon which the wickets are pitched, and take in our glance the capacious Grand Stand, the seats around the ground, and the mounds which afford so many people the opportunity of comfortably witnessing the cricket giants of the present day at play; when we see bowlers like Jones and Richardson hurling the leather along at the speed of thought without danger to the life of the batsmen, though perhaps to their wickets; when we see the strikers

standing at the crease and making strokes with precision which would be possible only on a wicket true as a billiard-table, and then compare this state of affairs with the conditions of fifty years ago, we realize how much the game has advanced.

Cricket as played in Adelaide in the forties was anything but the scientific recreation it is now. Even in England the disciples of John Willes, of whom William Lillywhite was the arch-priest, had only just won the battle between overarm and underhand bowling, the result of which was to revolutionize cricket, and the underhand style was still almost universal. For many years no disciple of the overarm theory was seen in this colony. Mr. W. B. T. Andrews, one of the relics of the early days, said to me in the course of a recent conversation—"When I came here from Western Australia in 1847 I found two clubs here—the Adelaide and the Kent and Sussex. John Cocker was the central figure in the game, for he was by far the best player. Cricket was a very different game to what it is now. The wicket of the Adelaide Club was pitched on the Park Lands just north of where the Adelaide Bridge now is, and, unless my memory fails, where King William-road passes along to North Adelaide. The bowling was nearly all underhand. Batting gloves and leg-guards were luxuries we did not indulge in. I remember well the first sight we had of them. Two keen cricketers named Smith

came from England and joined the club. One of them, who afterwards became a Government officer at Port Augusta, was the first player who donned pads and gloves in this colony. I shall never forget the day when we first saw these luxuries. While he was arraying himself in them we looked on in wonderment, and when he took up his position at the wicket we all thought we were going to see a wonderful exhibition of batting. But what do you think? The first ball took his stumps, and I can tell you he had to submit to a good deal of chaffing. Afterwards we always called him 'Pads and Gloves Smith!'

"The leading players of the Adelaide Club at that time were," continued Mr. Andrews, "R. R. Torrens, E. C. Gwynne, J. H. Parr, J. Acraman, Maddock, E. G. Ward, five sons of Sir Hurtle Fisher, W. R. Boothby, J. W. Peryman, Mortimer, and Colman, of Strathalbyn. Colman was one of the most enthusiastic players I ever knew. There was no club at Strathalbyn at that time, and he could only play in matches by coming to Adelaide. Whenever we had a game on I would drop him a line and he would ride all the way from Strathalbyn. I never knew him to fail us. Cocker was, of course, the heart and soul of the Kent and Sussex Club, and two brothers who earnestly supported him were Bill and Tom Botten. Tom Botten was the first roundarm bowler I saw. The players did not like it, although in England it was gradually superseding the underhand

style. Cocker was the best all-round player in the colony, and perhaps Mortimer came next to him.

"I remember," said Mr. Andrews, "one great single-wicket match that was played early in the fifties. A sailor named Wilkins arrived at Port Adelaide, and, having seen some of the Adelaide Club men play, issued in *The Register* a challenge to play a single-wicket match against any member of the Adelaide Club or any cricketer in South Australia. I was Secretary of the Adelaide Club, and I immediately wrote to him and said I knew a player who would meet him. Then I told Cocker what I had done, and he went with me to the Halfway House on the Port-road, where we met Wilkins. In a few minutes the match was arranged. It was to be for £10 a side. Wilkins insisted that each man should do his own fielding, which Cocker, who was a wonderfully active man, readily agreed to. Cocker won the toss for the right to choose the ground, and of course he selected the Kent and Sussex pitch, which was at the foot of the present Stanley Street, North Adelaide. The game excited widespread interest, and there were several hundred spectators. Having won the toss Cocker went in first, and didn't he just give Wilkins a treat. The first ball he hit for 4, and he went on smiting all over the place. Before long Wilkins was sorry he had stipulated that each man should do his own fielding. At last the spectators began to cry out to Cocker to knock his

wicket down, but he made 109 before he let Wilkins bowl him. Then the sailor went in, but he could make only 7 in his two innings. Though he said he was a cousin of old William Lillywhite, Wilkins was no match for Cocker, and he did not avail himself of the clause in the compact which gave the loser the right to demand a return match."

John Cocker was the best cricketer of his time. This is what one of his contemporaries says of him:—"Cocker was one of the keenest cricketers I ever knew. He would often play nearly all day, no matter how hot it was, on the level ground in front of his hotel. If he could not get men to play with he would go out with the lads, and many a boy he taught to play cricket. Nothing delighted him more than to be bowled by one of his protégés. Then in the evening he would entertain us with his fiddle in the parlour of his hotel, and many's the pleasant evening we have spent there listening to his music and his yarns about Alfred Mynn, Fuller Pilch, and other cricket worthies with whom he had played in Old England. He was the best - tempered man I ever came across." Cocker, like hundreds of other South Australians, was tempted to try his luck at the Victorian diggings. They found out in the sister colony that he was a fine cricketer, and efforts were made to induce him to stay there, but he preferred to come back to his business in South Australia.

Another early - day club was the

“Union,” of which His Honor Mr. Justice Bunday was the moving spirit. His Honor as a lad started a club at Woodside, where he made a century—probably the first scored in South Australia—with a bat made out of cherry-wood. The club, he says, had two which lasted several seasons. In 1852 the Union Club was started at the Union Hotel, whence it derived its name. Let His Honor tell the story in his own words, used in a lecture on manly sports which he gave in Adelaide many years ago :—“ Having got together a number of lads we started a small club at Marryatville. Growing in importance we resolved ourselves into a club, under the title of the Union Cricket Club. We were joined by a gentleman now resident in Sydney, Mr John Hunter, an enthusiastic and accomplished cricketer, thoroughly conversant with all parts of the game, and singularly gifted with the knowledge of how a club should be conducted. To the admirable tact, system, and management displayed by that gentleman the subsequent success of the club was mainly due. He is still held in affectionate remembrance by his old comrades. In the course of a few years we had something like eighty members, a first, second, and third eleven ; and having beaten both city and country clubs, it was resolved to challenge an eleven of the whole province. In *The Register* of January 11, 1854, the following advertisement appears :—

Cricket.—At a general meeting of the members of the Union Cricket Club, held last

evening, 3rd inst., the following resolution was proposed and duly carried, viz. :—“That a challenge be given to the cricketers of the Province of South Australia to bring forward an eleven to play a match with eleven members of the U.C.C.”

In accordance with the above I, on behalf of the Union Cricket Club, do hereby challenge the Province of South Australia to bring forward an eleven to play a friendly match upon the Park Lands between North and South Adelaide. The said game to be played from day to day until completed. This challenge to remain open for ten days from the date hereof.—W. H. BUNDEY, Sec.

Adelaide, 4th January, 1854.

Address to the Secretary of the U.C.C., Southern Cross, King William-street, Adelaide.

The challenge was duly accepted, and the game was played. I append the full scores, which are interesting, because they show who were the leading players of the colony in those early days :—

UNION.			
First innings.	Runs.	Second innings.	Runs.
Dobson, c. T. Botten,		b. T. Botten ...	16
b. Coleman ...	19	b. Coleman ...	23
Miller, b. T. Botten	17	p'ayed out, b. Cocker	1
Uren, b. Coleman ...	3	c. Cocker, b. W. Fisher	51
Baker, b. T. Botten...	6		
Futcher, l.b.w., b. T.		c. and b. W. Fisher ...	0
Botten ...	0		
Beazley, c. Coleman, b.		not out ...	2
T. Botten ...	3		
Lodge, c. Coleman, b.		b. Cocker ...	21
T. Botten ...	21	b. Cocker ...	4
Wood, b. Coleman ...	1	c. Boothby, b. W.	
Tunbridge, b. T.		Fisher ...	3
Botten ...	20		
W. Hall, c. and b. Cole-		b. W. Fisher ...	6
man ...	24	b. Coleman ...	5
Carter, not out ...	2	Wides and byes ...	2
Total ...	96	Total ...	134
Grand total ...	230.		

ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Ward, b. Hall... ..	2	not out	5
Boothby, b. Dobson	4	b. Hall	4
W. Botten, b. Hall ...	0	b. Dobson	0
Mortimer, b. Dobson	4	c. and b. Hall... ..	25
T. Botten, b. Hall ...	2	b. Dobson	0
Cocker, not out ...	20	b. Hall	10
H. Fisher, b. Hall ...	4	b. Hall	10
Coleman, b. Dobson	3	st. Lodge, b. Dobson	1
W. Fisher, hit wicket,			
b. Dobson	0	c. and b. Hall... ..	0
Andrews, b. Dobson...	0	absent	0
T. O'Halloran, b.			
Dobson	1	b. Dobson	2
Byes 3, no balls 1	4	Wides and byes	2
Total	44	Total	59
Grand total	103.		

Continuing his history of the Union Club, Judge Bunday says:—"Our success in this match was the ruin of the club. An effort was made a short time after to get an eleven to go to Melbourne to play the Melbourneites, but want of time and means prevented this being carried out, for at that period it was no light undertaking. The time for regular and comfortable steamboats at moderate fares had not then arrived. Having no further antagonists to conquer, the club gradually deteriorated, and within a year afterwards the Adelaides beat them in one innings." The Adelaides scored 152, of which Ewbank made 61, Cocker 30, W. Botten 18 not out, and Drew 12. The Unions replied with 42 and 92. Tom Botten's round arm and Cocker's deadly underhand bowling proved altogether too much for them. There were two curious features in *The Register's* report of this match. One is that when a man was run out his dismissal was thus recorded, "run

out, b. Cocker." and the other that in the second innings of the Union one man "refused to play?" why is not stated.

Judge Bunday thinks that Matthew Lodge was almost, if not quite, as fine a player as Cocker. "He was a very hard hitter, a magnificent field, an excellent wicketkeeper, and a bowler who could get a remarkable twist on the ball." Once in a match he bowled Cocker with a ball that curled right round his legs, and the batsman was so disgusted that he called out, "Hang it all, that's not cricket." His Honor further says:—"Lodge was one of the most extraordinary athletes I ever met. He excelled in every manly game, and, as a proof of his physical courage and fine nerve, an incident has been recalled to my recollection which occurred at one of the matches of the U.C.C. He had run up a good score and was playing steadily; reaching forward to drive a well-pitched ball, it rose, and in some manner glanced from his bat, striking him under the ear. He fell to the earth as if shot, and was carried to the tent to all appearance a dead man. Doctors were sent for in haste, but in the course of a few minutes, to the intense relief of all present, he gave a great sigh, jumped up, seemed a little giddy for a moment, and then, in a ludicrously anxious voice, exclaimed, 'I am not out, am I?' We all burst out laughing, gave him a hearty cheer, the game was resumed, and he scored several runs afterwards."

Still another club of the early days which the old-timers talk about was the

South Australian, which had a longer life than any of the others, and continued its existence long after the Adelaide Oval was formed. In the first Australian Cricket Guide, published at Sydney at the close of the season 1856-57, I came across the averages of the Union and South Australian Clubs. These, however, were not the only two in this colony at that time, for the Adelaides were still in existence, but they were the only clubs whose averages are recorded. I print them below, because they convey a capital idea of the mastery the ball had over the bat in those times, a mastery just as pronounced as that of the bat over the ball in these days.

BATTING.

UNION.

	Mdns.	Not Out.	Runs.	Highest Score.	Average.
T. Wood ...	7	2	95	19	19
T. Baker ...	10	2	143	54	17.8
W. Hall ...	9	2	61	15	8.71
R. Shadrack ...	4	0	32	11	8
J. Scandrett ...	5	0	31	18	92.9
T. Fletcher ..	5	0	29	18	8.9
J. Chittleborough	5	1	21	9	91.9
H. Briggs ...	4	0	16	7	4
G. Baker ...	3	0	12	8	4
T. Simons ...	5	0	12	8	2.4

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN.

W. J. Fullerton ...	8	0	66	35	8.25
H. D. Maddock ...	8	0	46	20	5.75
H. D. O'Halloran...	8	2	31	12	5.16
W. Perryman ...	6	0	30	10	5
E. Polhill ...	8	0	30	10	3.75
T. O'Halloran ...	8	0	25	14	3.12
G. Jamieson ...	6	2	8	3	4

BOWLING.

UNION.

	Runs.	Wkts.	Avg.
T. Fetcher ...	16	11	1.45
T. Baker ...	16	8	2
R. Shadrack ...	8	4	2
J. Dobson...	11	5	2.2
W. Hall ...	114	36	3.16

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN.

C. Ware	3	3	1
W. J. Fullarton...	41	19	2·15
H. D. Maddock ...	84	27	3·11

Thus far my story has been of the very early days of South Australian cricket. From all I have been able to gather, the game was played with considerable enthusiasm. The players used to practise assiduously; indeed, that was almost the only way they could have played at their favourite pastime, because there were so few teams. The population was so small that there were very few clubs, and without the zest of competition there can be no great improvement in any game. In England about this time the All England Eleven—the forerunner really of all the elevens that have since toured England, Australia, America, India, and Africa, cricket missionaries in fact—began to travel round the English provinces, and the most rapid advance which the game has made in any given time was witnessed. Just as when you throw a stone into a pond the ripple that is caused extends in an ever-widening circle, so the influence of the advance made in cricket in England was felt wherever the game was played. The immigrants who came to the colonies brought with them new notions and improved ideas in cricket, and the leaven had its influence upon the South Australian devotees of the game.

Nevertheless cricket in this colony did not really begin to improve with the

leaps and bounds which have since marked its progress until the Adelaide Oval was formed in 1872. Prior to that the cricketers pitched their wickets on the cleared vacant land much the same as the juniors do now upon the parks, although they did not indulge in the luxury of matting. There was little or no accommodation for spectators, of whom of course there were comparatively few. Often, when two leading clubs were playing, a tent would be erected, but this was not so much for the lookers-on as a place in which refreshment could be obtained. Some of the best people in the land would witness these games, and the Governors of the colony were frequently present. Rough though the wickets were, the players seemed to extract plenty of fun out of the pastime, and I have often met the old stager who has told me that cricket then was cricket, and that nowadays we play only bat and ball. As for the pitch, perhaps they would scrape the surface now and again, so that it would be fairly level; but oftener than not the ground would be worn into holes, from which one ball would shoot to the despair of the batsman, and the next would rise and fly over his head. Batting against such a bowler as Jones, and even against one with half his speed of delivery, would be dangerous, yet the players seldom wore leg-guards, without which any wielder of the willow going to bat would, nowadays, be a laughing-stock. Wicketkeeping gloves were practically unknown, although

some stumpers would don a pair of thick mittens such as gardeners use when clipping thorny hedges.

Materials were costly. Balls cost 15s., and bats, stumps, and leg-guards in proportion. The bats were not so shapely and elegant as the Wisden's, Ayers's, and Shrewsbury's that are wielded now. Often they were made out of colonial wood, and were a good deal heavier than even Jack Lyons — and he likes to get hold of a substantial stick — would care to handle. I can call to mind a bat that was made — I think it was out of ash — for the late Sam Morcom less than thirty years ago. Blade and handle were all in one piece, and, without the cane handle, lacked that spring which every good bat has now. Yet Morcom considered it a capital weapon. Batting in those days was not so faultlessly scientific as it is in these days, though the best batsmen understood something of the art of defence. As I have seen it put, there was “no tiddlewinking about making neat snicks into the slips” that one sees now. If a ball got there it was because it bumped unexpectedly and flew from the shoulder of the bat. The batsmen were, as a general rule, vigorous rather than scientific, and the fieldsmen had to keep a good deal further away from the wickets than they do now. Off-theory bowling was unheard of. The trundlers went at the stumps, and some of them could bowl a really good length, too; in fact the best of the batsmen could not score off every

ball. They, as well as our Giffens, Hills, and Darlings, sometimes found the good-length ball which they had to patiently play back to the bowler; but on the whole there seems to have been a good deal more rough-and-ready hitting than we are accustomed to see on the truer wickets which rule in the present day.

In what is now an old South Australian Guide I saw a reference to the very early day of South Australian Cricket, which says:—

We used to consider cricket matches as very hearty affairs. The teetotal business was not so thoroughly developed as at present, or then some of the itinerant lecturers would have rounded us up.

The writer, in commenting upon one of the early players who is dead and gone, said one of his principal qualifications was that he was "one of the heartiest after-dinner men I ever knew or dropped across," which calls to mind the days of Nyren, towards the close of the eighteenth century, when after the serious game was finished, it was fought over again around the festive board. The old Hambletonian chronicler tells about Noah Mann, after one of the village matches and the usual supper, being found next morning in the gigantic English fireplace so burned that he died within twenty-four hours. It was presumed that in the stupor which affected him after the supper he had fallen from the armchair into the embers, and had been roasted without his cries being heard. There is no record of any South

Australian having met a similar fate, but the old players will tell you that they had some right royal times after the matches. Ask some of the old United Tradesmen Club, who flourished in North Adelaide in the sixties, about their trips to Gawler to play the Munno Paras. The late Commissioner Peterswald was at that time one of the leading hands at Munno Para, and keen supporters were the Ifoulds, who are still represented at Onetree Hill by their descendants, and the three brothers Loftus, who, in the fifties, challenged any three in the colony to a single-wicket match, were keen supporters. The same writer, from whom I have already quoted, says :--

“To tell an unvarnished tale, we went for recreation and enjoyment, and we had them to our hearts' content. We always took care that we should go in for something substantial in the way of refreshments. There was always a fair share of sheoak to be had.”

They would play cricket all day and sup at night, and in the early hours of the next morning be hoisted into the six-horse bus—that is, those of them who could not safely mount the steps themselves. Then they would have a rollicking drive to the city singing “See the conquering hero comes,” though it was not always as conquerors that they came back to town. Quite an institution at some of the cricket matches was footracing, and the events were generally over short distances, which were covered in nothing like even time. Music was also a feature of the

matches and suppers, and John Cocker was not only the best cricketer of his time, but he could handle his fiddle better than most of his comrades.



CHAPTER II.

THE GAME ADVANCES.

Leading Clubs of the Sixties—A Strong College Team—South Australians become Ambitious.

The Adelaide, Kent and Sussex, Union, and South Australian might be termed the first generation of South Australian cricket clubs. As the days rolled by other teams were formed and the game advanced by leaps and bounds. The South Australian Club became in a few years' time the most influential in the colony, and in the sixties secured a lease of a piece of the North Park Lands, where the Adelaide Oval now stands. The land was fenced, and John Cocker made a wicket which was used until the South Australian Cricketing Association took over the Oval. The ladies took a great interest in the South Australian Club, and it is recorded that a bevy of fair ones worked the colours of the club into a beautiful pennant, which Lady MacDonnell, the wife of the then Governor, duly presented to the recipients. On the day when the presentation was made the South Australians scored 138, and it was thought that they had made a good tally.

The United Tradesmen Club was formed in 1861, and for some years had one of the best teams in the city. It was really originated on a Good Friday, when William Botten, who used to keep the

Lord Melbourne Hotel, picked a scratch eleven to play John Cocker's club for a supper. The scratch team won by 7 runs. "We had," says my informant, "a great time at the supper, over which the late Mr. William Bunday, who was afterwards Mayor of Adelaide, presided. Before we broke up we decided to form a club. The intention was carried out, and we got a strong team together. Bill Botten, who, I believe, had played in Kent with Alfred Mynn, Phin Botten, Ted Botten, David Beeby, Billy Hillier, Harry Roberts, George and Alf Payne, Nottage, Stace, and Philip Brown, who had played with Daniel Hayward when Cambridge was a leading cricket county, were amongst the leading players. I remember once Hillier made nearly 100 himself on the South Park Lands, and that was considered a great feat in those days. Our ground used to be on the North Park Lands near the river, where the Norwoods now play. We had a large number of followers, and when we played the Universals, East Suburbans, or South Australians you would be sure to see a "great crowd." In later years came Sid Cope, the Packers, H. J. and A. J., Tuckey, and others who carried on the traditions of the Club for a long time.

The great rivals of the Tradesmen were the Eastern Suburbans. Mr. J. Scandrett, of Kapunda, was one of the founders of this club, which, he says, "included the Goodens (George, Charley, and Jim), Sam Toms, and Tom and Bill Wood. We had a very strong eleven.

Jimmy Gooden, though only a youngster, was a fine bat even then. I recollect once soon after the club started myself and the two Woods published an advertisement challenging any three players to a single-wicket match, but no one responded. Talking of single-wicket games reminds me of one that was played on the East Park Lands between the five brothers Fisher and an equal number of other players. I think the Fishers won, but I am not sure about it. There was one thing in which our club differed from any of the present day. We paid our own way, and never asked outsiders for subscriptions. Nowadays it seems to me no club thinks of getting along without help from its honorary officers. Later on the Sholl brothers, L. H., and R., were prominent members of the Eastern Suburban Club. Then another team was started in the populous eastern suburb under the name East Torrens. Here the Goodens were to the fore. The Suburbans used to play where the Kent Town Wesleyan Church now stands.

Mr. A. G. Wells, of Gawler, has written to me as follows :—“As one of the earliest members, though never a prominent player, I can remember even before the Eastern Suburban Club was formed, how we used to turn out at daybreak for practice in a paddock on the Magill Road, right opposite the Gooden's residence. Mr. Gooden, senr., father of Charley, George, and Jim, was an old English cricketer and used to coach us. The

brothers no doubt, especially Jim, had to thank the old gentleman in after years for this early teaching."

"One of the most enthusiastic cricketers I ever knew," remarked Mr. Scandrett, "was W. B. T. Andrews, who once said to me, 'If I only had the means I would keep an eleven of my own.' He never seemed to be tired of playing, though he was not so skilful as men like Cocker, Lodge, Mortimer, and other cracks." Mr. Scandrett has been a close observer of cricket, and it was therefore interesting to me to hear him. "It is rubbish to say Cocker was as good a player as the best of the present day." This is one man's opinion. On the other hand another old hand has told me he considers that had Cocker been playing now he would have held his own with the best men of the present time. No doubt he would, for he must have possessed the physical attributes that go to make a cricketer. The champions of the two periods cannot, however, be compared, because the game was played under such diametrically different conditions

One of the veteran cricketers of South Australia is James Chittleborough, who is full of reminiscences. I tell later on the part he took in inaugurating cricket outside the city before the colony was a dozen years old. Afterwards he went to the goldfields and when he returned helped to establish the Universal Club, which held a prominent place in Adelaide cricket for some years. "Peryman, Mortimer, Cocker, and

Rivaz were," he says, "amongst our leading players, and of course having Cocker we were able to hold our own pretty well, because he was a host in himself. Mortimer, who had played in England, was one of the best batsmen at that time, and I recollect him and Cocker knocking up 100 runs for Universal against Onetree Hill, and winning the match without the loss of a wicket. One scored 50 and the other 51. That was pretty close for men who were, in a sense, rivals, although they played for the same club. We had a great supper afterwards, and I shall not readily forget Mortimer's response to the toast of 'The winning team.' He got up and said—'Gentlemen, I will not detain you long now, because I think I detained some of you too long a little while ago.' Almost immediately he sat down amidst roars of laughter. Cocker is dead, but Mortimer is alive in New Zealand, very much alive I should say, judging from a letter he recently wrote to an old friend in South Australia. He wrote:—'I am very well, and I and my wife (his bat is his wife) made 100 runs the other day.' The recipient of the letter played against Mortimer when he and Cocker did the trick at One Tree, so what old memories it must have revived.

"In 1857," says Mr. Chittleborough, "there were so few clubs to play that we cast round for a special match, and decided to play one 'British v. Colonial.' These games were a regular institution for nearly twenty years."

There is recorded one tremendous contest which was played on March 12 and 13, 1859, which the Britishers won by 5 runs. A special inducement offered to the players to be present was that they would be presented with a collodion portrait of themselves. It is also reported that a "grand spree" took place after the game "at the back of The Shades kept by Aldridge." The speechmaking and drinking were kept up until the small hours. Fancy the leading cricketers of the present day indulging like that. What would be thought of them? And what would their cricket be worth? Yet an old player said to me the other day—

"Our matches were right royal affairs compared with what you have now. There was some real genuine fun to be got out of the games, and, upon my word, I don't think the players were any the worse for it."

There is no need to argue the point, excepting to say that if the players nowadays indulged in the same way few of them would get to the end of four and five days' matches. But then the players of the sixties set less store on averages than they do now. They thought a good deal more of having a bit of fun, although doubtless they were anxious enough to be on the winning side.

One of James Chittleborough's cherished memories is a single match which he took part in after he joined the Hindmarsh Club. He may with justice be proud of the event. The Hindmarsh

Club issued a challenge that three of its players would meet any other three men in the colony. The Norwoods accepted, and a game which extended over three afternoons was played on Lindsay Circus, which is still, as it was then, the centre of Hindmarsh cricket. The sides were: Hindmarsh — Chittleborough, Howlett, and King; Norwood—J. E. Gooden, Morcom, and Cole. The match excited great interest, and the finish was most exciting, for the men of the western suburb defeated the champions of the east by one solitary run.

Yet another leading club of the sixties was the Kent, which for some time carried everything before it. Amongst its prominent members were G. S. Aldridge, A. L. Giles, W. H. Rosman, jun., B. Rosman, Aug. Davies, B. Featherstone, A. S. Chapman, Tom Cole, and A. R. Malcom. Arthur Malcom was one of the best cricketers of his time; indeed, there was probably not a better all-round athlete in Adelaide, for he was a great runner. Malcom and Jim Gooden once, I have been told, played a single-wicket match, which Malcom won although Gooden's very fine defensive batting considerably baffled him. The Kents used to boast they never asked a man to join them, which is more than many clubs can say nowadays. Nevertheless the plan answered with the Kents, for the club had a numerous membership.

An interesting episode of those days—this would in what was really the mediæval age of South Australian cricket

—is recorded in an old South Australian cricket almanac. St. Peter's College had a very strong team in 1859, and actually defeated all the clubs in the city. In one match the boys made the fine score of 143, to which B. J. Featherstone contributed 48 and A. R. Addison 27. "Then," says the old chronicler, "we were in high fettle, like the Norwoods in later years, at winning everything, although we did not challenge fifteen of anything; we were a trifle more modest. We tried our hands against the Munno Paras; made sure of a very sort thing, and got well drubbed, owing to Cocker going to the Paras. They got over a hundred and we less. That Cocker was a tickler; he did best for Para. However, we took our drubbing kindly, and got back to town with our six-horse 'bus in the wee hours of the morning singing 'The conquering hero comes.' It would not have done for us to explain that we had been licked or we should have dropped in for it pretty roughly."

South Australian cricketers at length became ambitious. The English teams had been to Australia, but had passed South Australia by and confined their instruction-giving exhibitions to the eastern colonies, while intercolonial matches were restricted to New South Wales and Victoria and Victoria and Tasmania. Rather different from present circumstances, when an English team opened its tour in South Australia, and the first intercolonial match of the

season is played on the Adelaide Oval. But the fact that such important contests were taking place in Victoria and New South Wales naturally led South Australian cricketers to wish to widen their sphere of operations, and in the seventies they began to think the time had arrived when they should try their mettle against Victoria. In March, 1871, the following paragraph appeared in *The Register* :—

It has been frequently suggested that an effort should be made to secure a match between South Australian and Victorian cricketers, and just now the matter is being mooted again with a good deal of earnestness.

On February 13 of the same year Mr. John Hill, as Secretary of the Norwood Club, had written to the Melbourne Club asking whether a match could be arranged to be played in Adelaide between the representatives of the two colonies. The following reply was received :—

Melbourne, March 1, 1871.

Sir—I have submitted your letter of the 13th ult. to the Committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club and to the Intercolonial Match Committee. Both bodies, however, are of opinion that it is far too late in the season to entertain the idea of sending an eleven to Adelaide. Should you think of renewing your proposal at the commencement of next season it should reach Melbourne early in September, before the season's arrangements are made, and full expenses of the trip, together with bonuses for one or two professional players, should be guaranteed.

W. H. HANDFIELD,
Secretary Melbourne Cricket Club.

The idea of measuring blades with the

Victorians was not persevered with during the next season, as the Adelaide players had in hand another project which involved a considerable expenditure—no less than the formation of the Adelaide Oval.



CHAPTER III.

ESTABLISHING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRICKETING ASSOCIATION.

The Need for an Oval—The First Enclosed Ground in Adelaide, originated by Mr. H. Y. Sparks—Early Financial Troubles—An Association Proposed in the Open Columns of *The Register*—The Norwood Club takes Action—The Inaugural Meeting—An Association Formed—Its Objects—The First Committee and Honorary Officers—Enemies of the Association.

In the early seventies Adelaide cricketers had upon their hands an important project—the formation of a Cricketing Association. The idea of playing a match with Victoria had caused much discussion. It was, however, pointed out that there was not in Adelaide a proper ground upon which to play the game. True, about six acres of the North Park Lands, where the Adelaide Oval now stands, was enclosed by a paling fence and used as a cricket ground. This belonged to the South Australian Club, established since 1859, and which had shown really remarkable enterprise for those early days in fencing the ground. The gentleman entitled to the

credit of having been the founder of the Adelaide Oval is Mr. H. Y. Sparks, who is still one of South Australia's most whole-hearted workers in the cause of



H. Y. SPARKS,
FOUNDER OF THE ADELAIDE OVAL.

cricket. In 1869 he visited Melbourne, and while there inspected the ground of the Melbourne Club, and ascertained the method of making and keeping it in

order and the sources whence the necessary funds were obtained. Upon his return he approached the North Adelaide Young Men, Kent, and South Australian Clubs with a view to their forming a ground ; but, failing to obtain satisfactory support, persuaded the South Australians alone to take the matter up. On their behalf he issued the following circular :—

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CRICKET CLUB.

Adelaide, 19th November, 1869. Dear Sir— I beg to inform you that an effort is now being made to form a Central Cricket Ground similar to those at present existing in the sister colonies, the want of which has hitherto acted very prejudicially against the success of the game here, and as the Corporation has granted a suitable plot of ground it is proposed to have it grassed, levelled, fenced, and surrounded by a belt of shrubs, trees, &c., so as to render it both serviceable and ornamental, and a place of pleasant resort. As the achievement of this object will necessarily incur a large expenditure, the committee have thought it desirable to appeal to the admirers and patrons of manly sports for assistance. May I have the pleasure of including your name in the list of subscribers? I am, Sir, &c., H. YORKE SPARKS, Hon. Treasurer.

That circular he supported by a long letter which he wrote on November 29, and which appeared in *The Register*. The following extracts from it are interesting, particularly as they indicate that the writer contemplated the ground being used for other purposes than cricket :—

I shall watch with interest the success of the movement, and trust that for the honour of South Australia, and the benefit of our youth in particular, my fellow-colonists will

generously assist in promoting that which, if fully carried out, will certainly encourage our young men to partake not only in cricket, but in athletic exercises generally, in pursuit of which steady and temperate lives are indispensable, and a vigorous restraint of much that undermines a youthful career is engendered; and how frequently do pure tastes, generous impulses, and manly friendship spring from the associations of a cricket field? I mention athletic sports because I feel satisfied that the committee of the Adelaide Amateur Athletic Club, to whom we are indebted for the success of athletics throughout the colony, would be too glad to hold their meetings upon a ground that would enable their competitors fairly to place their performances against those of the English or colonial athletes. This so far has been impossible, the Adelaide Racecourse being altogether unfit for footracing, especially after such rain as marred the sports of our last meeting. (Mr. Sparks was Treasurer of the Athletic Club.)

The appeal by the South Australian Club resulted in £150 being raised; and, a lease of six acres of the North Park Lands having been secured from the Corporation, the preparation of a wicket was begun. Couchgrass was planted in the centre, where Checkett now produces under more favourable conditions such excellent wickets, and the ground was fenced. The whole expenditure amounted to about £200, and to meet the deficiency "an amateur dramatic and musical entertainment" was given in the Theatre Royal on December 15. A feature of this entertainment was the farce "Whitebait at Greenwich," in which the characters were sustained by members of the South Australian Club, and Mr. Sparks himself

played the part of "Glimmer." The cause was good, but expenses were heavy; and the funds did not benefit materially. The club, however, carried on its ground, with the liability round its neck, until 1871. They, however, held it only on a lease from the Corporation at a peppercorn rental; and, as no charge could be made for the admission of the public, it was idle to think of playing an intercolonial match there. The idea, however, occurred to some of the other cricketers who would not join the South Australians in 1869, that the ground might be taken over by a comprehensive body, and, if it could be secured on more favourable terms, made into an up-to-date cricket field. On February 14, 1871, Mr. Sparks, under the *nom de plume* "Sigma," wrote to *The Register* advocating the formation of such a combination. Then on March 10, 1871, a long letter on the subject appeared in the open columns of *The Register*. It was signed "Oswald," a *nom de plume* in which we have no difficulty in recognising the identity of the present energetic Chairman of the Association, William Oswald Whitridge. "Oswald" suggested the formation of an Association with the definite object of raising £200 and taking over the arrangement of intercolonial matches. A month later came a letter from "Short-leg," who suggested either the taking over of the South Australians' ground or the formation of another on the South Park Lands, where, he said, a better site might be chosen. It is interesting to

note that this writer advocated the playing of matches in the winter instead of the summer. "Cricket," he said, "should not be an exclusively summer game as it is now, to the serious diminution of enjoyment on the part both of players and lookers-on." That is rather amusing in the light of present-day experience of cricket as a purely summer game. Why, the hotter the day the better most Australian players enjoy themselves. Nevertheless, our winter is so mild that cricket might be played with no more inconvenience than exists in England during the so-called summer months. Then came a letter from Gawler signed "Long-leg," and urging the South Australian or Norwood Clubs to take steps to call the players and supporters of the game together. The Norwoods already had the matter under consideration, and at a meeting held at the Criterion Hotel on May 9, 1871, it was unanimously resolved—

That the Secretary be instructed to communicate with the Secretaries of the South Australian, Kent, North Adelaide, and Gawler Cricket Clubs with a view of obtaining their sanction to place their names to an advertisement calling a meeting to discuss the desirability of forming a Cricketing Association in South Australia.

That was the germ from which sprang the South Australian Cricketing Association. The Secretaries of the five clubs signed the advertisement, and the Secretary of the Norwood Club sent circulars to many influential colonists requesting their attendance and interest. The in-

augural meeting was held at the Prince Alfred Hotel on May 31, 1871, and there were about sixty persons present. Major J. A. Fergusson, A.D.C. to the Governor, Sir James Fergusson, and a keen cricketer, was voted to the chair. Mr. J. Pickering, Secretary of the Norwood Club, and now Comptroller of Accounts in the Railway Department, opened the proceedings by giving a lucid practical outline of the views of the Norwood Club regarding a central ground. Mr. John S. Bellhouse then moved—

That this meeting considers it desirable at once to form an Association to be called "The South Australian Cricketing Association." and pledges its support thereto.

Mr. E. M. Ashwin, who seconded the proposition, made a suggestive speech. "A great want felt here by the cricketers is," he remarked, "the aid and sympathies of the influential classes." That may have been a reproach in Adelaide twenty-six years ago, but it can no longer be said that the people who have the means do not support cricket and cricketers. Mr. Ashwin went on to argue that inasmuch as the Agricultural Society could charge for admission to the Exhibition the cricketers had a fair claim to a piece of the public estate. That motion was carried right away, and the Association became an established fact.

An important matter was to define the objects of the Association, and Mr. R. J. E. Warburton moved—

That the objects of this Association be to

prepare and keep in order a central cricket ground, with all necessary requirements, and stimulate their improvement in the interests of the game, and to make arrangements for occasional intercolonial matches.

Mr. W. H. Bunday, now the highly respected Judge of the Supreme Court, in seconding this proposition, delivered himself eloquently in advocacy of manly sports, and remarked—"The more a young man is encouraged in cricketing the better and more useful man he will make." A novel suggestion emanated from him, which doubtless cricketers nowadays will heartily endorse, though it has not found full acceptance amongst employers. Mr. Bunday was sure "if the employers were only brought to see the advantage of cricketing they would not only support it but give their young men so much time per week in which to practice, and in the long run they would be the gainers by so doing." An application of this principle is the Wednesday early-closing movement in the suburbs, and the employés appreciate the opportunity afforded to them of participating in cricket and other manly sports. Mr. Warburton's motion was carried. The Chairman afterwards spoke at some length, and said the ground of the South Australian Club was very bad, but in the neighbourhood of the racecourse there was a good level spot. He also suggested that a professional player should be secured to coach the local men. By-the-way, is it not strange

that from then until now the necessity for a professional being engaged by the Association has been generally admitted, yet for only three years or so have we had one? The Association is probably the only organization in the whole of the wide world which runs a cricket-ground without one or more professional bowlers being retained upon it. But I have digressed. That first meeting appointed a preliminary committee "to communicate with the public with a view to starting the Association on a proper basis." It is interesting to recall the names of the first committee:—Messrs. R. J. E. Warburton, E. C. Gwynne, J. A. Fergusson, South Australian; J. W. Colton, W. G. P. Joyner, F. Searle, North Adelaide; E. M. Ashwin, T. Burgan, and G. Aldridge, Kent; C. C. Gooden, J. Pickering, and H. Morgan, Norwood; H. E. Bright, jun., J. W. Peryman, and C. J. Mellor, Gawler. Most of those gentlemen are still in the land of living cricketers, and may be seen at the Adelaide Oval when there is an important game afoot, but the only one of them who is still actively working on the committee of the Association is Mr. J. W. Colton, who has during most of the time held the office of Treasurer. The subscription to the Association was fixed at 10s. 6d. per year for playing members and £1 1s. for non-playing members. Nearly fifty of those present signified in writing their willingness to join the Association before they separated to arouse the enthusiasm of their friends.

The preliminary committee met on June 3, 10, and 15, and on the last-named date another general meeting took place at the Prince Alfred Hotel, at which various recommendations of the committee were adopted. There were about seventy persons present, so that the idea of having a central cricket ground had clearly been favourably received. The first business was the appointment of officers. His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Fergusson, had accepted the position of President, and headed the subscription-list with a donation of £5. The first Presidents were Mr. Justice Gwynne, Sir J. Morpaett, the Hons. H. Ayers, J. Hart, J. H. Barrow, Major J. A. Fergusson, Messrs. F. G. Smith, E. T. Smith, C. Balk, H. E. Bright, J. Howard Clark, and W. B. T. Andrews. Five only of these gentlemen are still alive—Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Fergusson, who is now a Professor of Military Tactics at the Sandhurst College; Mr. F. Grey Smith, who was then Manager of the Bank of South Australia, which conducted its business at what is now the South Australian Hotel — always the head-quarters of visiting cricketers—on North-terrace, and for many years has been President of the Melbourne Cricket Club; Sir Edwin Smith, the present President of the Association; Mr. H. E. Bright, then a member of the House of Assembly; and Mr. W. B. T. Andrews, who never loses an opportunity to come from Mount Lofty to see a good match on

the Oval. The committee reported that the South Australian Club had offered to allow the Association to take over its ground, upon which £200 had been spent, by paying £50, the amount of the Club's liabilities, and the Corporation of Adelaide had been memorialized to grant the Association a lease of ten acres of the Park Lands on a fourteen years' tenure at a peppercorn rental. This action was approved, and arrangements were made in the event of the compliance of the Corporation being obtained to petition Parliament to pass an Act empowering the Corporation to grant the lease with the right to the Association to charge for admission. The committee also reported that of sixty collecting-cards which had been distributed twenty-two had been returned, containing promises of subscriptions to the amount of £150, but the opinion was expressed that a much larger sum would be received. It was decided that each cricket club in the colony should be entitled to have one representative on the committee of the Association for every five of its members who were also members of the Association; no club to have more than three representatives. Mr. Pickering was unanimously appointed Secretary, but there were two gentlemen nominated for the position of Treasurer—Mr. J. W. Colton and Mr. H. D. O'Halloran. The former was elected by 30 votes to 21. Before the meeting broke up Mr. Bunday made a stirring speech, which indicated that the

Association had its enemies. He remarked that he had heard the objection raised that the Association



J. PICKERING,
FIRST SECRETARY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
CRICKETING ASSOCIATION.

would do away with the good spirit of rivalry that had hitherto existed among the clubs. He, however, had urged that

it would undoubtedly increase the rivalry by establishing a good ground and stimulating interest in the game. "Young men," he added, "had very few means of recreation beyond billiard-rooms and places of a like nature, and it was advisable to aid the introduction of manly sports in every way"—a sentiment which was enthusiastically supported by those present and in the leading columns of the newspapers. The struggle to secure the lease of the ground now commenced, and the Association did not gain the day without encountering much opposition in certain quarters.



CHAPTER IV.

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE ADELAIDE OVAL.

The First Committee of the Cricketing Association—Links between Past and Present—Fighting for the Adelaide Oval—A Parliamentary Objector—Critics Outside—Trouble with the City Corporation—Should the Parks be used for Recreation or Grazing Purposes?—The Rent Demanded by the Corporation—The Association Triumphant—A Programme of 1871-72—Playing for a Ball—A Challenge from Victoria—Single-wicket Matches—No-balling Incident.

The South Australian Cricketing Association having been established, there were frequent meetings of the Committee of Management. The first was held on July 5, 1871, and on the basis of one delegate for every five members of a club who were also members of the Association there were eight clubs represented, viz., the South Australian, Kent, North Adelaide Young Men, Norwood, Register, Stepney, South Adelaide, and Hindmarsh. It is interesting to note here that only four of these clubs continued their connection with the Association during the quarter of a century which elapsed before the electorate arrangements broke up old ties and associations. This

quartette comprised Norwood; North Adelaide Young Men, who were familiarly known in the seventies as "The holy boys," because most of them belonged to a young men's class of which the Rev. Dr. Jefferis was the guide and philosopher, and who subsequently dropped the "Young Men" from their name; South Adelaide; and Hindmarsh, who had in Mr. Frank King the same delegate in 1871 as in 1897. The other clubs continued their alliance with the Association during more or less brief periods. The Stepney team, which was represented by Mr. W. O. Whitridge, the present Chairman of the Association, soon merged into the Norwood Club; the Registers, although they have preserved their individuality uninterruptedly ever since, were not strong enough from a cricket point of view to remain in the Association; and the Kents and South Australians after fighting pluckily for their lives had to give up the struggle a few years later. Messrs. Whitridge and King as delegates, and Mr. Colton, the Treasurer, are the only connecting links between the past and present Committees of Management.

At the meeting to which I have been alluding the first steps were taken regarding the preparation of the ground, although nothing could be done until the Bill empowering the Corporation to grant a lease had been passed by the Parliament. Five members of the committee were deputed to wait upon Dr. Schomburgk, then the Director of the

Botanic Gardens, to ascertain the cost of levelling and planting the ground. The doctor recommended them to plant East Indian couch grass. No planting was, however, done until the lease of the ground had been secured.

Full and complete possession of the Oval was not obtained without some trouble. The one-clause Bill, authorizing the Corporation to grant a lease of not exceeding twelve acres of the North Park Lands, was introduced into Parliament on September 15 by Mr. John Darling, who was at that time the senior member for West Adelaide, and who probably did not dream that his son would within twenty-five years attain fame as one of the best batsmen in Australia. Several questions were raised during the passage of the Bill. "Should a thoroughfare exist across the ground?" "Should it be open free to the public at certain times?" and "Would it not be well to combine the athletic club in the lease?" These were answered in the negative by those who understood the wishes of the cricketers. Thereupon Mr. Robert Cottrell, a member for East Adelaide, as "one of the representatives of the people," protested that the park lands were intended for the public, and no portion of them ought to be set aside for one particular purpose. Mr. Polysyllabic Coglin, who "had been fraternising with the citizens for thirty-five years," stepped into the breach on behalf of the Association. The long and short of it is that Mr. Cottrell was the only legislator who

raised his voice against the Bill, and when he called for a division his was the solitary "No," so that no counting of heads was necessary. The measure was speedily passed through the Upper House.

There were, however, critics outside the halls of Legislature who objected to any of the Park Lands being leased to a body which could charge for admission, and they had some influence on members of the City Council. Then the fight for the ground began in earnest. So far everything had been comparatively plain sailing, but when the cricketers went to the Corporation for their lease they were confronted by opposition where formerly they had met with warm support. It had all along been understood by the players and the City Fathers, over whom Mr. J. M. Solomon presided, that the Association should have a lease of the ground at a peppercorn rental. But by the time the Bill had passed Parliament a new Mayor and several new Councillors had been elected, and some of these objected to the ground being taken away "from the citizens." The same argument was used that you hear now, if there is any talk of reserving a portion of the Park Lands for recreation. "We get so much a year for allowing the cowkeepers to graze their animals on the park, and why should we take less from the cricketers?" To which the obvious reply then was that recently given by Alderman Johnson — that the Park Lands were originally set aside for purposes of recreation as lungs for the city, and not to

be used merely as fields for grazing cows upon, and that if a portion of them were let to an Association the money received from the public would be spent in improving the ground and thus beautifying the Park. The Corporation asked for £20 a year rent, but the Association, which had had a "peppercorn" rate in its mind's eye, strenuously objected, and informed the Council that it would not feel justified in paying more than £5 per annum, or £15 in the event of athletic sports being held on the ground. The civic dignitaries would not, however, shift from their position. Messrs. W. H. Bunday, W. Pope, and J. Pickering were deputed to interview them, and this they did more than once. They emphasized the fact that the former Corporation had in writing agreed that merely a peppercorn rental should be charged, and finally the Council decided that the Association should pay no more than £7 a year for the first seven years, and £14 per annum for the last seven years of a fourteen years' lease of 12 acres. This was carried only on the casting-vote of the Mayor, Mr. A. H. F. Bartels; the other proposition was £10 and £15 for the respective periods. The suggestion was made at the time that the difference was so slight as not to be worth fighting about, but the cricketers showed plainly that they were merely contesting a question of principle rather than fighting for a pound or two.

The lease of twelve acres was finally granted to Mr. Justice Gwynne,

Hon. H. Ayers, and Mr. E. T. Smith as trustees of the Association. Mr. Frank Grey Smith was originally chosen as a trustee, but as he was about to depart for Melbourne he could not accept the responsibility, and Mr. E. T. (now Sir Edwin) Smith filled the vacancy, so that he is the only one of the present trustees who has been in office since the inauguration of the ground. His co-trustees are now Sir Charles Todd, who recently succeeded Sir Henry Ayers, and Mr. Sparks, who has held the office for many years. It was not until June, 1872—more than twelve months after the first public meeting had been held—that the lease was finally arranged. The work had been long and difficult, but the result was satisfactory. I find in Mr. W. O. Whitridge's "Cricket Guide," published a year or two afterwards, that the gentlemen who worked specially hard to overcome the difficulties were Messrs. E. T. Smith, W. H. Bunday, W. B. T. Andrews, F. Ayers, W. Pope, E. M. Ashwin, C. S. Leader, H. Y. Sparks, J. Pickering, Secretary, and J. W. Colton, Treasurer. These are names which cricketers who in the present day appreciate the manifold advantages offered by the Adelaide Oval should hold in high esteem.

While the Association had been fighting for the larger lease they had had the use of the ground under the old lease of the South Australian Club, but there was no programme of matches arranged by the Association such as we have now. That did not come until two or three years

later. I have before me, however, a tiny card containing "Cricket matches arranged for season 1871-72." The games were all played on the Association Ground, but they were confined to three of the clubs—South Australian, Norwood, and North Adelaide—who between November 4 and March 17 met each other twice. This was signed not by an official of the Association, but by Messrs. E. C. Gwynne, jun., W. G. P. Joyner, and J. Pickering, the respective Secretaries of the three clubs. A curious feature of the card is the following line:—"A new ball to be presented to the winning team at each match." You never hear of a ball being played for in these times, though it is a commercial age, but in the early days of South Australian cricket one always had to be provided as a trophy for the victorious team, and sometimes a supper or dinner besides. A gentleman has described to me the ceremony of handing over the ball as he recollects it. "The two elevens at the conclusion of the match would line up, and the captain of the defeated team, looking as pleasant as circumstances permitted, would throw the ball to the skipper of the opposite side; then the players would cheer each other, and wind up with 'one for the umpires.'" Another old cricketer, "J. H. L.," says:—"I belonged to the Garrick Cricket Club in the early seventies, and on one occasion we had played and beaten a certain club hailing from north of Adelaide. Not being satisfied with one defeat, they

determined to risk another—and a ball at the same time—to prove conclusively that our first victory was only a fluke. Of course we accepted the challenge, and the match came off on our opponents' ground, adjoining—well, never mind where. We won, and, the two teams having lined up in the orthodox manner, the captain of the losing side—whose cricket, by-the-way, was of a higher standard than his grammar or his rhetoric—addressed our captain thus:—‘Mr. —, allow me on behalf of the — Cricket Club to present you with this 'ere ball as you 've been the *victims* in the match just concluded. Three cheers fur the Garrick Cricket Club,' &c. We accepted the ball, although we could hardly lay claim to having been the *victims* on the occasion. In fact, we had a sort of notion that our opponents had more right to that title than we had.”

Towards the close of the first season a challenge was received from T. W. Wills, J. Conway, and S. Cosstick, three of the best cricketers of Victoria, to play five South Australians at single wicket. Such matches were greatly in vogue in those days, and twelve months before they wrote to South Australia the Victorian trio had played, after an inter-colonial contest at Sydney, a famous single-wicket game with the brothers Dave, Edward, and Charles Gregory, of New South Wales. The contestants battled with such patient determination that three whole afternoons were

necessary to finish the match, which the Gregory brothers won by 5 runs. Although such a long time was occupied the scores were only—New South Wales, 24—30; Victoria, 21—28. It was during this game that Dave Gregory was no-balled for throwing, and then took a rise out of the umpire by retaining the ball in his hand after “no ball” had been called with all the lung power the umpire possessed. The umpire was immediately changed. The match was witnessed by 5,000 people, and had the Victorians come to Adelaide they would probably have attracted a large attendance, but their challenge had to be declined “because we have no ground,” which meant, of course, no ground on which a charge could be made for admission.

The fact that an Association had been formed in South Australia led Mr. W. C. Bidle, Secretary of the Melbourne Club, who was then negotiating for the visit of an English Eleven to Australia, to ask the Association if they would undertake to arrange a match at Adelaide, and the reply sent was—“We will do all we can to secure their visit here.” How the first visit of an English Eleven came to be made to Adelaide will be told in a subsequent chapter.



CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE
ASSOCIATION.

Planting the Adelaide Oval—Would English Grass Grow?—Couch Adopted—The First Curator of the Ground—First Annual Meeting of the Association—A Progressive Body—Laurel Wreaths and Money Prizes—A Novel Proposal in the House of Assembly—Grant for the Adelaide Oval—The Advantages of Manly Sports—An Earnest Advocate—The First Announced Match of the Cricketing Association—The Leading Players of 1872—A Unique Match at Melbourne.

The first question that had to be decided by the Association in connection with the formation of the new ground was whether it should be planted with English grass or couch, as Dr. Schomburgk had recommended. The botanist said the English clover and rye would not survive our summer heat, but the sub-committee ascertained that they thrive on the Melbourne ground with the aid of artificial watering. Further advice from Melbourne was that "Couch grass grew lumpy, so that the ball did not travel truly." Nevertheless Dr. Schomburgk, as an expert, had his way and couch was planted. The question was, however, considerably dis-

cussed, and *The Register* in a leading article complained that in South Australia the cultivation of foreign grasses had not been attempted with any amount of spirit. On July 17 the ploughing, levelling and planting of the six acres which originally formed the playing area of the Adelaide Oval was begun, and it was completed on August 29. The contractor was H. Copas, who seems to have had an unfortunate undertaking, for what had been expected to cost only £85 involved an outlay of £190. The Association, however, did not pay so much as this, but by order of the Court disbursed £157.

Curious people have often wondered why our ground is called The Oval, whereas you generally hear of such-and-such a cricket ground. I find that at a committee meeting held in July, 1872, a resolution specially affirmed that it should be styled "The Oval." Possibly the mover of the proposition was an enthusiastic Surrey man, who was anxious to have something in the new country to perpetually remind him of "The Oval" in London, the ground which is the home of the Surrey County Club.

The first Curator of the Adelaide Oval was Mr. G. W. Gooden, now the highly respected Town Clerk of Kensington and Norwood, and he was chosen because of his knowledge of gardening and cricket. He entered upon his duties in November, when the ground had been planted three months. I asked Mr. Gooden the other day to give me an idea

what the Oval was like when he took charge. "It was," he replied, "fenced and planted with trees that Mr. Gwynne had given to the Association. The playing ground was rather rough and the couch grass had only come up in patches. I devoted my attention to the preparation of a wicket, and I planted rye grass where the couch had not spread. Waterpipes were not laid all over the ground then, and I had to carry water for the pitch from a tap near to the gate. No beautiful black soil from the rich hills gullies was available, and the grass had to do the best it could for itself in the red clayey soil which was on the North Park Lands. I had a light roller which I used on the wicket; but, what with carrying water and wheeling all the earth for the filling of holes in a hand-barrow, you may imagine that the Oval did not make the same progress in a given time that it does now, when they have plenty of rich loam and an endless supply of water. Nevertheless, it improved steadily."

The first annual meeting of the Association was held on October 28, 1872. The Association then numbered in its ranks 107 honorary and 48 playing members, who would represent financially slightly over £160. Public subscriptions swelled the receipts to £313, which nominally met the expenditure of £300 19s. 6d., but owing to works which had been undertaken Mr. Colton, the keeper of the purse, announced that £250 would have to be raised to clear off liabilities.

These figures indicate that the leading spirits on the committee of management were progressivists, for they had no international or intercolonial matches to bring the grist to the mill. At this meeting, however, Lieutenant Fergusson proposed that the committee should be authorized to make arrangements for the visit of a Victorian Eleven to play twenty-two of the province—that was modest if you like—so soon as the Oval was suitable for the game. Later in the season the committee dealt with this proposal, and decided that “owing to the hot weather, want of water, and ravages of locusts the grass on the field is not sufficiently thick to play upon,” and the invitation was not then sent to Victoria. Mr. W. H. Bundey, in seconding Lieutenant Fergusson’s proposition, offered a suggestion which has a peculiar significance just now. With the object of inducing ladies to be present at the matches he thought that at the close of the season the best batsman and bowler of the year should each have a wreath placed on his brow by a Queen of Flowers chosen for the occasion. Although the rewards of the Isthmian games were not thus revived it seems to me that the players a quarter of a century ago thought less of trophies and money prizes than do those of our own time, and one can understand the sarcastic remarks of the old stagers after the recent match with Stoddart’s team, when the announcement was made that the South Australians who had bungled chances had divided £10 offered as an award for good fielding.

Three days after the meeting of the Association Mr. Bunday—and South Australia has never had a more earnest advocate of the benefit of manly sports than the learned Judge—moved, entirely upon his own responsibility, a motion in the House of Assembly which aimed at relieving the Association of some of its financial burden. His proposal was:—

“That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying His Excellency to recommend this House to make provision in the Estimates for the year 1873, to an extent not exceeding £300, for the purpose of supplementing the funds of the South Australian Cricketing Association for building a pavilion, &c., on the grounds.”

The mover admitted that this was an unusual application. He claimed that he was not asking for a vote for the amusement of the public, but it would be spent in improving the property of the colony. He believed that a man who endeavoured to induce young men to go into the open air and engage in healthy exercises was doing more good than many preachers. This sentiment aroused a chorus of “Ohs,” but Mr. Bunday, who, by the way, must have had prescience of what is now happening in legislative halls and elsewhere, went on to say that they could not make men moral by Act of Parliament, but they could assist in making them moral by holding out inducements to draw them from the public-house and similar places to take part in healthy games in the open air. The enthusiastic mover claimed votes on the

ground that Agricultural Societies were subsidised, and said—"If they provided for the advantage of animals without brains they ought much more to do so for animals with brains." The Commissioner of Crown Lands, the Hon. T. Reynolds, opposed the motion because if such votes were commenced he did not know where they would stop. The discussion was brief, and one of the strongest points made was that by Mr. F. E. H. W. Krichauff, who mentioned that Continental countries had been undertaking large expenditure in aid—not perhaps of cricket, but of gymnastic exercises which had very much improved Germans physically. Mr. J. J. Duncan, who thought country roads and jetties wanted the money more than the Adelaide Oval, was the only member who lined up with the three Ministers in opposition to the motion, which was carried by 12 votes to 4. The vote was never placed upon the Estimates. Why I have not been able to ascertain; but the Association has contrived to improve its ground without drawing from the purse of the country.

On November 11, 1872, the day on which the Prince of Wales's Birthday was celebrated, what was described in *The Register* as "the first announced match of the South Australian Cricketing Association" took place. The Oval was not ready, and St. Peter's College Ground was secured for the event—a contest between British and colonial born players, which was then a plan much in vogue for testing the skill of the leading

cricketers. Proceedings were to have begun at 10 o'clock in the morning, an arrangement which would horrify cricketers of the present day, who are satisfied to start at noon, and have a couple of spells during an afternoon, but adverse weather delayed the commencement until 12 o'clock. Even then rain was drizzling, and it soon came down smartly, but play went on, and the chronicler of the time remarked—"Great credit was due to the players for the plucky way in which they carried the match to a successful issue." The men of those times were evidently made of stern stuff and did not hurry to cover whenever a few drops fell from the clouds. The pitch—and one was not found without considerable trouble—is said to have been "spongy," which doubtless accounts for the small scoring. It is interesting to recall the names of the contestants, for the reason that they were amongst the crack players twenty-five years ago:—

British born:—R. G. E. Warburton, S. Morcom, J. Chittleborough, A. R. Lungley, T. Burgan, Lieutenant Fergusson, J. E. Gooden, J. Scandrett, F. J. Townsend, H. H. Walters, F. J. Naish.

Colonial born:—A. L. Giles, E. G. Millard, R. N. Davenport, T. Cole, A. R. Malcolm, G. D. Green, F. Ayers, G. Aldridge, C. D. Perkins, C. Hart, P. Horn.

There were, however, some notable absentees—F. King, who could not play, and H. Lynn, H. Stanes, and one or two others of the "Holy Boys," who were engaged with the Strathalbyn Club. Of the twenty-two who did take part in the

contest the only one who still plays regularly is the veteran James Chittleborough, and he can still run short runs in a way calculated to take the breath from many a youngster. J. E. Gooden might be still on the Oval were he not so enthusiastic an officer in the military, but the others who are now alive—and most of them are—take their cricket pleasure in the Pavilion and in financially encouraging the rising generation. The Britishers had the best of the game, for they scored 70—32 for 2 wickets against 35—106. A. R. Lungley, who was then not long out from England, showed the best form, for, besides scoring 4 and 17 not out, he secured seven wickets for 18 in the first innings and in the second six wickets fell to him, but the cost was not stated. He was a left-arm bowler, who for a considerable time held sway over the batsmen. Davenport gained the honours for the colonials by capturing five wickets for 15 and earning the comment on his second innings score of 27 that his was “the best piece of cricket seen during the day.” Fred Ayers, however, also distinguished himself for the South Australians by making the highest score in the first essay, though it was only 8.

Towards the end of 1872 a unique match was played at Melbourne in which South Australians had some interest. Victoria was very strong at that time, and had defeated New South Wales in five consecutive contests. Our friends across the Border were never backward in

tootling their own trumpet, and it occurred to George Coppin, the well-known theatrical manager, that Victorian players were powerful enough to play a combination from the other colonies, and a challenge was accordingly issued to New South Wales, Tasmania, and South Australia, not, however, to play eleven of them, but thirteen—that was Victorian modesty. South Australia was invited to send three representatives, and S. Morcom, J. E. Gooden, and F. King went to Melbourne, the last-named, however, taking the place of Lieutenant Fergusson, who was selected, but could not get away. There were seven Sydney men and three each from South Australia and Tasmania, and the Victorians were defeated easily by five wickets. Our representatives cut insignificant figures in the contest, as Morcom scored 4—0, Gooden 3, and King 1, or 8 runs in four innings. The *Australasian* remarked—“Their batting showed that the game has not advanced in South Australia as it has in Victoria. They displayed better form in the field than they did with bat or ball, and Morcom, if he threw in better, would make a good long-leg or cover.” South Australians had not, however, had the advantage that the players in the other colonies had enjoyed, but the game was soon to advance with leaps and bounds in our colony.

CHAPTER VI.

TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS.

The Progress of the Cricketing Association—Early Financial Difficulties—The First Loan—How “the chains” were Inaugurated — A Memorable Season — Opening of the Oval — The Champion Batsman of 1874-75—The First Professional — Wickets Improved — A Professional from England—The Secretaries of the Association—Improving the accommodation—The Chairman of the Association.

Although I have dealt at some length with the early history of the South Australian Cricketing Association and the Adelaide Oval, I shall content myself with taking a bird's-eye view, as it were, of the subsequent career of the Association and its ground. The difficulties did not end with the first year of its existence. There have always been financial anxieties such as arise when an enterprising committee spends in excess of its income, however confident it may be of the support that the future shall give. This has been the chronic state of the Committee of the South Australian Cricketing Association. It has always been in debt, and that, too, of deliberate intent. The principle that has controlled its operations has been that a loan to be extinguished acts as a splendid incentive to work;

consequently it has never hesitated so soon as one liability has been wiped out to incur another in order that the ground might be improved. Mr. Pickering resigned the secretaryship in 1873 and Mr. H. Y. Sparks succeeded him. Soon after he took office Mr. Sparks extensively distributed a circular in which he eloquently appealed "to the friends of the colony and the patrons of manly sports" for assistance in preparing the Oval, the cost of which was expected to reach £1,500. The response was not so gratifying as might have been expected, and the Association found it necessary to borrow. In 1873, therefore, £5 debentures amounting in all to £95 were issued. The committee had authorized the disposal of £150 worth, but the general public could not be inspired with sufficient confidence in the stability of the young Association to take any of the bonds, and the nineteen that were sold were issued to members of the committee and one or two of their friends. When the sale of these debentures was decided upon, Mr. Colton, the Treasurer, wanted the Association to borrow a cool thousand and erect a pavilion, but his fellow-members considered that his views regarding the future of the Oval were optimistic, and outvoted him.

During that year the Association had a hard struggle to secure the wherewithal to carry on, and for a time the Curator was relieved of his duties on the ground and put on at commission to collect members' subscriptions. Later on funds were

considered to be so low that his services had to be dispensed with during the winter. The ground was, however, making fair progress, and the committee in its second annual report, presented in September, 1873, remarked, "it promises to be a 'good floor' by Christmas." That expression "good floor" is novel and rather quaint. In the same report the public were earnestly appealed to "to continue their assistance to an object which is at once admitted to be both deserving and noble."

In the second year of Mr. Sparks's secretaryship an episode occurred which is interesting because it explains a phrase that has been frequently used in reporting matches on the Oval and is not seen in accounts of contests elsewhere. You read that a batsman hit a "chainer," or that he drove a ball to "the chains;" on other grounds the corresponding reference is to "the fence." The "chains" came about in this way:—Mr. Sparks purchased for a moderate sum at an auction sale of old sundries 150 iron posts which he thought would be suitable for fencing the playing area of the ground. He offered them to the Association at cost price, although he might have sold them as old iron for more than he gave for them, and the committee gladly took them. One gentleman actually moved a vote of censure on Mr. Sparks for buying them, because "such independent action on the part of the Secretary was reprehensible," but no one seconded his motion. These iron posts were footed with a screw, and by means of a long iron

lever could be easily screwed 3 ft. into the ground. Mr. Sparks presented a chain to the Association, which was so short of funds that it could not afford the £17 to buy one, and he and his brother threaded it through the heads of the posts. Many of these iron posts stand to the present day near to the entrance-gate of the Oval, and on the occasion of a great match you will still see a crowd pressing on the chain suddenly precipitated to the earth. In due time, no doubt, our Association will place a picket fence round the ground, the appearance of which would thereby be vastly improved.

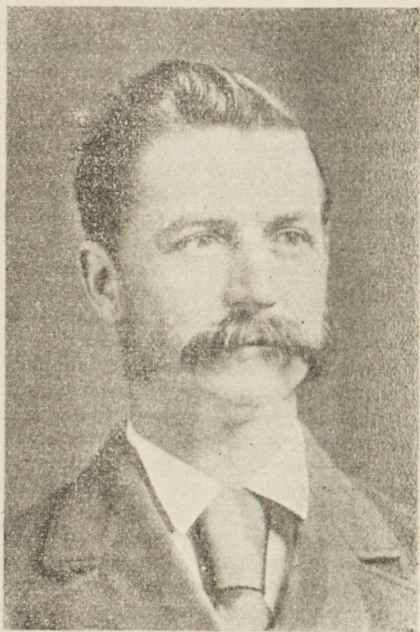
The season of 1873-74 was a memorable one in the history of the Oval. First of all weeds and thistles which had overrun the ground had to be eradicated, and then, owing to the carelessness of one of the workmen engaged in mowing, a fire occurred which did considerable damage to the fence, and completely destroyed all the young trees. Fortunately the fence, which had been insured, was quickly replaced, and when the planting season came round the trees which are now such a beautiful ornament to the Oval were planted. Towards the close of the season a match was played against Dr. W. G. Grace's All-England Eleven, and the substantial receipts enabled the Association to carry out many much-needed improvements.

The Oval had been formally opened on December 13, 1873, and again the rival elevens were British and colonial born players. This time the colo-

nials won by 142 against 95. While the bowling of Frank King, who captured 8 wickets for 39, had a good deal to do with the victory a bit of batting at the end of the colonials' innings was the striking feature of the contest. When Fred Ayers, the last man, joined E. Davenport 20 runs were still required to secure a win. but so determinedly did the two batsmen play that they actually put on 60 runs for the last wicket—a great performance on a pitch which was described as being “rather lumpy,” from which one ball rose and struck Featherstone, one of the colonials, so severely in the mouth that he could not go on with his innings. The profit derived from this game was only £15, but a concert and a muff match, the latter arranged by Mr. J. N. Hines, were much more lucrative, as the former yielded £45 and the other nearly £100.

The season 1874-75 was a busy one. Mr. F. R. Burton was now Secretary, and a worthy successor he proved to Messrs. Pickering and Sparks, while Mr. Alexander Crooks, to whom the Association owes a great deal, was Chancellor of the Exchequer. During the year no fewer than thirty-eight matches were played on the Oval, including the first inter-colonial contest, which will be alluded to more fully in a subsequent chapter. Special games were arranged against teams from Kadina, the South, and the North, in each of which the Association was victorious, and between British and colonial and married and single elevens. The minutes of the Association record

that J. E. Gooden was presented with a trophy for having the best average— $19\frac{2}{7}$ —of special matches. In one game he made 89^* , which was for a long time



J. E. GOODEN,

A CRACK BATSMAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

the nearest approach to the century. At this time Gooden was probably the finest batsman in the colony. Next to him on the averages for 1874-75 came J.

D. Crichton 17, with no one else above 12. The crack bowler of the year was F. King, who captured 35 wickets at a cost of $5\frac{1}{2}$ runs each; H. Stanes had an average of $4\frac{10}{11}$, but he secured only 11 wickets.

The receipts from the matches played in 1874-75 were not large, from which it would appear that the public at that time took comparatively little interest in cricket; nevertheless the Association was able to do a considerable amount of progressive work. A wood-and-iron pavilion, which, with additions two or three years later, sufficed for many years, was erected, and there was actually a small credit balance at the end of the year. During the season a professional coach named Gay was engaged from Melbourne at £3 per week for three months, and players, if they wished to have the benefit of his service, had to pay 7s. 6d. each for the whole period. After about a month's work, however, Gay absented himself for five days without leave, and his services were promptly dispensed with. It is interesting to note that the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, who twenty years ago was as enthusiastic a player as he is now a supporter of cricket, was at this time a delegate to the Association from the South Adelaide Club, which was always until it disbanded last season the apple of his cricketical eye.

Since the first five years of its life the Association and the cricket played under its auspices have progressed with leaps and bounds. A step which had marked

influence in improving the standard of the play was taken in 1876-77, when, a strip of ground in the centre of the Oval having been dug up and filled with rich loam, couch and rye grass were planted. The necessity for putting in the English grasses to obtain a really good wicket was impressed upon the South Australians by John Conway, captain of the Victorian eleven, which our men easily defeated in February, 1876. Clover and rye would not have thriven in the red, clayey soil, upon which the tenacious couch had done well, but Mr. Conway suggested the use of black loam, such as was used in Victoria, and a diligent search in the hills' gullies disclosed the presence of a splendid supply of the rich dark soil at Athelstone, whence the curators have ever since obtained it. At first the English grasses did not thrive, but when an English team visited Adelaide James Lillywhite gave the curator valuable hints, which enabled him to vastly improve the central wicket, and ere long the area of clover-and-rye was extended. Now we are able to prepare a wicket second to none in the world. In the same season it was decided, on the proposition of the Secretary, Mr. Burton, to play one game every Saturday on the Neutral Ground upon a matting wicket, but there were opponents of this idea, who sarcastically alluded to the Neutral Ground as "Burton's Folly."

The most important resolution passed in 1877 was one which authorized Messrs. Lillywhite and Southerton to send out a first-class English professional to take

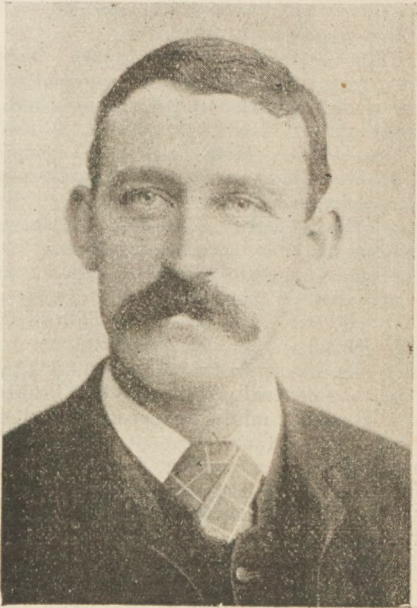
charge of the ground and coach the players. They engaged Jesse Hide, of Sussex, who arrived in November, 1878, and remained here for three years at a salary of £200 a year. He was a fine all-round cricketer, and quickly improved by his advice and example the standard of play on the Oval. Indeed, it is difficult to estimate freely the value of his influence in the moulding of Adelaide cricket. Anyway our players improved so rapidly that every touring international team was glad to visit South Australia, and though our men were for many years given odds they rendered extremely creditable accounts of themselves. Upon the departure of Hide, Charley Checkett, who had been employed under the Englishman, received the appointment of curator, and the wickets he has prepared have secured a worldwide reputation.

The public began towards the end of the seventies to take greater interest in cricket, and I find that in the seventh year of its existence the members' subscriptions amounted to no less than £809, while the total receipts for the season were £1,365. The Association was now so important an organization that it became necessary to have a paid Secretary, and Mr. C. S. Leader, who had carried out the duties honorarily for one season, received the appointment at a remuneration of 10 per cent. on the gross receipts of special matches, which in the first year amounted to £123. Mr. Leader held office until 1883, when he was made a life member of the Association, an

honour which in 1877 had been conferred upon Messrs. Pickering, Sparks, and Burton, the former Secretaries. Mr. John Creswell succeeded Mr. Leader, and to his boundless energy the subsequent progress made by the Association has been largely due.

The receipts rose every year. In 1879 the ground was first used regularly for football, but the takings amounted to only £118. In later seasons, however, they became much larger, and formed a considerable item in the revenue of the Association. As the patronage accorded to the Oval increased, it became necessary to afford additional conveniences, and in 1882 £2,000 was borrowed on the guarantee of Messrs. E. T. Smith, J. W. Colton, H. Y. Sparks, E. M. Ashwin, and A. Crooks, in order that the Grand Stand, now the central portion of the buildings on the Oval, might be erected in lieu of the old wood and iron structure. This new stand was built by Messrs. King and Son, of Hindmarsh, whose tender amounted to £2,635. This answered the purpose for a time, but a few years later a new pavilion became necessary, and rooms for the special convenience of members were added to the Grand Stand. To enable this work to be carried out Sir Edwin advanced the Association £2,500 on liberal terms, and the balance of that amount was repaid to him only last season, when first Mr. James Marshall and afterwards Mr. J. N. Hines made smaller loans to the Associa-

tion. Then three years ago the Smokers' Pavilion was added in the men's reserve, and this year the Derby Stand has been erected. Now all that is needed to make

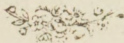


JOHN CRESWELL,
SECRETARY S. A. CRICKETING ASSOCIATION.

the Adelaide Oval a thoroughly up-to-date cricket ground is a more conveniently arranged Members' Pavilion, which will, no doubt, be provided ere

long. Altogether, in round figures, £55,000 has been expended on the Adelaide Oval, which is now beyond question one of the most attractive pleasure resorts in the city.

A review of the career of the Association would not be complete without a reference to the colonists who have occupied the position of Chairman of the Committee of Management, for apart from the time occupied in attending meetings a great deal of executive responsibility has been cast upon them. The following gentlemen have held office:—J. A. Fergusson, 1871-72; William Pope, 1872-74; E. M. Ashwin, 1874; W. Pope, 1874-76; E. M. Ashwin, 1876-78; J. W. Colton, 1878-85; E. T. Smith, 1886-87; H. Y. Sparks, 1888-91; G. M. Evan, 1892-95; W. O. Whitridge, 1896.



CHAPTER VII.

ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

An abortive attempt to secure a visit from Englishmen—The first team that came to South Australia—Enterprising Yorke's Peninsula—A cricketing dispute—A remarkable wicket—Small scores—Bowling extraordinary—A curious single-wicket match—The first international game on the Oval—Rivalry between local batsmen—A crop of duckseggs—A wonderful catch—"Which are the wickets?"—An English Tour opened at Adelaide—Wonderful Bowling by Alfred Shaw—One Double-figure Score in Forty Wickets—George Giffen and A. H. Jarvis make their Bows—A Game Giffen remembers—The Advance of South Australian Cricket—Giffen's First Great Performance—Noel's Misfortune—A Fine Left-hand Bowler—Walter Giffen's Début—Lyons and Blinman face the Englishmen and perform Creditably—The First Test Match—South Australian Cricketers out of their Swaddling Clothes—A Doctored Wicket—Record Score by South Australia—A Brilliant Victory.

Having briefly reviewed the career of the South Australian Cricketing Associa-

tion, I propose now to give some reminiscences of cricket matches that have been played in the colony since the Oval was formed. I shall refer first to games played in the colony by English Elevens.

The first two English Elevens that toured the colonies—H. H. Stephenson's in 1862, and George Parr's in 1864—did not visit South Australia. In 1862 such a thing was not dreamt of, but two years later several of the Adelaide supporters of the game were anxious to see the Englishmen play, and on February 1, 1864, about fifty of them met at Mr. G. Aldridge's Prince of Wales Hotel in Angas-street to consider whether arrangements could be made for Parr's team to come to Adelaide. Mr. Aldridge, who had called the meeting, stated that the £1,500 and the expenses of the tourists would have to be paid for one match. Think of that. Why, in these days a country town can have a match with a travelling English eleven for £150, and the promoters of the team pay the hotel bills. Mr. Aldridge went on to say that having carefully figured the matter out he had arrived at the conclusion that a match—he proposed that it should be played upon the old Thebarton racecourse, 10 acres of which would have to be specially enclosed—would mean a loss of £465, but he thought guarantees to this extent might be secured. Mr. J. Scandrett, now of Kapunda, who was in the chair, urged that South Australians should not lay themselves open to the reproach that they had

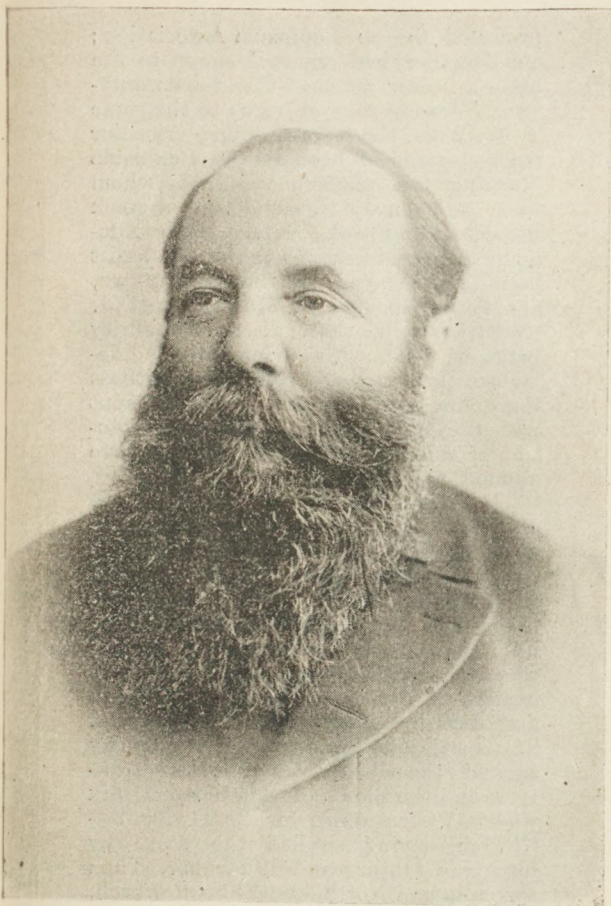
not attempted to secure a visit from the Englishmen, and on the motion of Mr. H. D. Gouge it was resolved "that it is desirable to take steps to invite the All-England Eleven over." Another resolution was that an attempt should be made to form a Company with a capital of £2,500 in £1 shares to bring about the desired object, and an influential committee, which included Sir J. H. Fisher and Mr. Justice Gwynne, was appointed, with Mr. J. K. Penny as Secretary. The Company, however, was, I believe, never formed. At any rate the Englishmen did not visit Adelaide in 1864.

Ten years later, when the greatest cricket luminary of the age—W. G. Grace—brought out an eleven at the invitation of the Melbourne Cricket Club, arrangements were made for South Australia to be visited when they were on their way home. The Cricketing Association is not entitled to the credit of having induced the celebrated W. G. to come to South Australia. That belongs to the enterprising spirits who were in the Yorke's Peninsula mining towns at that time. Throughout the winter of 1873 the Secretary of the Melbourne Club negotiated with our Association with a view to the English Eleven calling at Adelaide, but it was thought the sum of £800 demanded by the promoters of the tour for one game was excessive—the Association was expected also to pay the passage-money of the cricketers from Melbourne and their expenses while they were here. The Treasurer estimated that

the match would cost altogether, including the outlay necessary for a stand, about £1,290, a tidy sum for a city the size of Adelaide to pay. Calculations of probable receipts on the basis of charges varying from 2s. for the ground to 7s. 6d. for the stand showed a profit, and as guarantees amounting to £742 10s. had been received from prominent citizens, the Association, after considerable delay, telegraphed their acceptance of the terms offered to them, with the condition that any arrangements for a visit of the team to Yorke's Peninsula should be made through them. They had, however, dallied too long, for the reply came from Melbourne, "Too late; Kadina accepted yesterday. Any other match in South Australia can only be arranged with their consent." The members of the committee were annoyed that the Secretary of the Melbourne Club had not given them, as first negotiators, the refusal of the match before concluding an agreement with the Kadina people, and they carried a resolution expressing the desirableness of any member of the Association declining to play in a match against the Englishmen out of the city. Shortly afterwards the committee, determined to at least see the great cricket star, instructed the Secretary "to invite Mr. Grace and his team to a banquet in Adelaide on the eve of their departure from South Australia." The "dispute," as it was called at the time, between the city and Yorke's Peninsula Associations, was the subject of a great deal of controversy

and general regret was expressed that it should have occurred to prevent one match being played in the city, whither people from all parts could have come to see the famous tourists.

March, 1874, came in due course, and brought with it boisterous March winds, which gave the Englishmen so rough a passage round from Melbourne that the coasting steamer in which they were travelling had to put into Lacepede Bay, and a piteous telegram came from W. G. to the Secretary of the Association complaining of seasickness, and asking that arrangements might be made to take his team from Adelaide to the Peninsula by land—they had originally intended to complete the journey by sea. A coach was engaged, and it was Mr. John Hill, father of Clem, who tooled the distinguished visitors—except Fred Grace, who was too unwell to leave the city—to Kadina, where they arrived on the morning of March 23, the day fixed for the match to begin. The ground was situated on the racecourse, about midway between Kadina and Wallaroo, and it had been specially enclosed with close boarding, while two grand stands capable of accommodating 500 persons each had been built. The local Association had indeed spared no expense to meet the convenience of the public. It is worthy of note that Mr. E. T. Smith with characteristic large-heartedness had, when the arrangements for a match in Adelaide fell through, transferred the monetary assistance he had



SIR F. T. SMITH,
A LIBERAL PATRON OF CRICKET.

promised to the Peninsula Association; and, further, had donated a cup to the highest scorer amongst the local twenty-two. For some time previous to the game T. W. Wills, the best all-round cricketer in Victoria, had been on the Peninsula coaching the players, most of whom were ridiculously "green," and a week beforehand Frank King, the Adelaide all-round crack, went up to assist him. Both played for the Twenty-two, also J. E. Gooden, S. Morcom, and J. Chittleborough, three of the best city batsmen, who, with many other Adelaideans, had gone to Kadina to witness the game, and who at the last moment were prevailed upon, despite the resolution of the Association, to which I have alluded, to play.

The wicket was on limestone ground, and Dr. Grace in his diary of the tour says — "It was a miserable one. Before we began I had the ground swept, and two large basketsfull of small stones were picked up." No wonder, then, that the scoring was ridiculously small. Julius Ey, the captain of the twenty-two, won the toss, and of course sent his visitors to the field. The local men gave a shocking display against the rib-roasters of Martin McIntyre, and the slows of Southerton. Six wickets were down for 2, 11 for 8—Gooden having swelled the score by hitting a fourer—and 19 for 25. Then Paqualin and Nottle knocked up 7 each, and the latter was rapturously applauded when he made a boundary

hit. The innings closed for 42, and Nottle carried out his bat. McIntyre took 9 wickets for 4 runs, and Southerton 11 for 29. Some of the spectators prognosticated that when the Englishmen got in they would never come out, but they were all disposed of for 64, though eleven W.G.'s could not have done much on such a wicket with twenty-two men in the field. Greenwood 22 and Jupp 10 were the double-figure scorers, and Grace, who was caught at short-leg, made only 5. King captured 3 wickets for 8, and Wills 2 for 2. Thus ended the first day's play. The local people were delighted, and quite unprepared for the ludicrous display made by the local men at their second attempt. This time McIntyre and Lillywhite were the bowlers, and they actually disposed of the whole 22 for 13 runs, of which 5 were extras. This is the lowest score ever made against an English Eleven in Australia; next to it comes 14 by 22 of Moss Vale in 1885, when Peel captured 18 wickets for 7 runs. McIntyre in the second innings at Kadina bowled 83 balls for 1 run and 7 wickets—so that, with 16 for 5 in the match, his average was better than Peel's at Moss Vale—and Lillywhite 84 balls for 7 runs and 13 wickets. The only rungetters, and they almost deserve to be immortalized, were G. Andrews and Peryman 2 each, and Gooden, E. Andrews, Rosman, and Chittleborough 1 each. Sixteen men, including Paqualin and Nottle, the heroes

of the first innings, failed to score. Although they had won the game the Englishmen went in again and knocked up 102, of which W.G. was responsible for 54. It was in this innings that Bush succeeded in one of those tricks which the touring Englishmen were so fond of playing on Australian "country" umpires. King bowled a ball which just lifted the tell-tales, but the batsman coolly remarked that the wicketkeeper must have knocked off the bails, and the umpire gave him another innings.

The match having been arranged for three days, the Englishmen, to help the Association, which after all lost heavily on their transaction, agreed to take part in a scratch game with fifteen men a-side, and in this contest, now that there was no longer the excitement of a real game, and no Martin McIntyre to disconcert him, Chittleborough notched 16, which, next to Grace's 23, was the highest score for the side. Before this game began a novel single wicket match, which deserves to be chronicled amongst the curiosities of South Australian cricket, was played between Paqualin and Nottle to decide which should take Mr. Smith's silver cup. Each had made 7 in the first innings and had failed in the second, but Nottle was once not out, a circumstance which in these days would have entitled him to the trophy. He claimed the award at once, and the point was put to W.G., who ruled "that a not-out innings did not count

except in compiling batting averages." An arrangement was therefore made that the two aspirants should have a single-wicket match, with Grace bowling at them, to decide the question of supremacy. As both were reckoned to be poor batsmen fun was expected, and it was furnished. Nottle led off first, and played the fifth ball into his wicket. Paqualin, who was evidently a daring young man, when he went in let fly and ran on the off chance that he might squeeze home, but was run out. Then Nottle was bowled again, and a second time his rival was run out, much to the amusement of the spectators. Nottle at his third try was caught for a ducksegg, but Paqualin this time raced the ball and won the coveted cup.

While this game was in progress the people in Adelaide had been bestirring themselves, and the result of a conference, with W. G. Grace at one end of the telegraph line and Messrs. Sparks, Crooks, and Ayers at the other, was that the Englishmen agreed to begin a three-days' match in Adelaide next day for £110 and above that half the gate-money. Twenty-four hours was not long in which to arrange the game, but at noon next day twenty-two city players and a tolerable number of spectators were awaiting on the Adelaide Oval the arrival of the English players, who, however, did not reach the ground until half-past 3, owing to the heavy state of the road having delayed them. They had been travelling during the greater part of the night, and were very tired. Nevertheless play began at once.

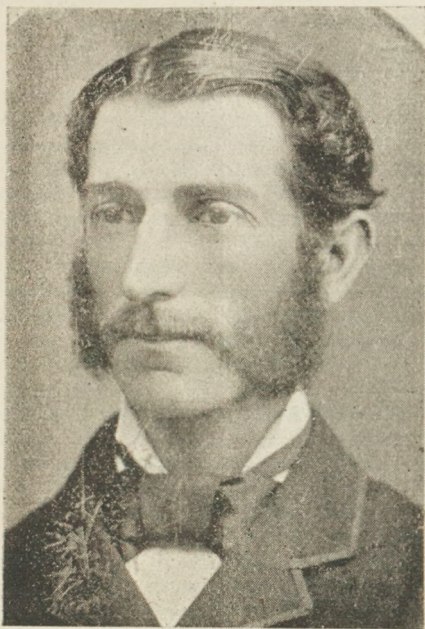
The members of the Kadina Association, to whom Mr. Smith had, when speaking at luncheon on the last day of the Peninsula match, appealed in vain to bury the hatchet, talked of an injunction to prevent the match from proceeding because it had not been arranged through them, but the receipt of £150 as a solatium for breach of contract led to a stay of proceedings. Even after obtaining this £150 the Yorke's Peninsula Association unfortunately lost about £700 over its venture.

The city players displayed much better form than their country cousins had at Kadina. As this was the first international game played in Adelaide it will be interesting to give the names of the twenty-two representatives of South Australia with their scores:—

T. Cole, 0—2; A. Crooks, 0—absent; J. E. Gooden, 0—3; L. Giles, 2—0; E. Davenport, 0—1; W. G. P. Joyner, 1—0; R. J. E. Warburton, 1—0; B. Featherstone, 0—13 not out; A. F. Robinson, 15—3; S. Morcom, 0—6; E. G. Millard, 1—7; A. R. Lungley (Captain), 0—10; F. King, 16—0; S. Cope, 10—5; Dr. Gosse, 10—0; H. Lynn, 0—0; C. H. Gibbs, 1—3; H. J. Southwell, 0—9; J. James, 5—5; J. D. Crichton, 0—1 not out; A. Scott, 0—0; H. Stanes, 0—2.

It is noteworthy that only Lynn and Scott earned a pair of spectacles, though no fewer than thirteen others failed to score in one of their tries. The totals of the innings were 63 and 82. According to the accounts of the game one of the leading features of the local men's batting was the rivalry between the British and colonial born players, and the latter

gained the honours in the first innings. Robinson, a Britisher, sent them a task by compiling 15, but King topped this by one. The former, however, gained a cup,



FRANK KING.

presented by Mr. J. W. Davis for the highest scorer, by making 3 in the second innings, whereas the local-born player failed entirely. The Englishmen won the match with seven wickets to spare

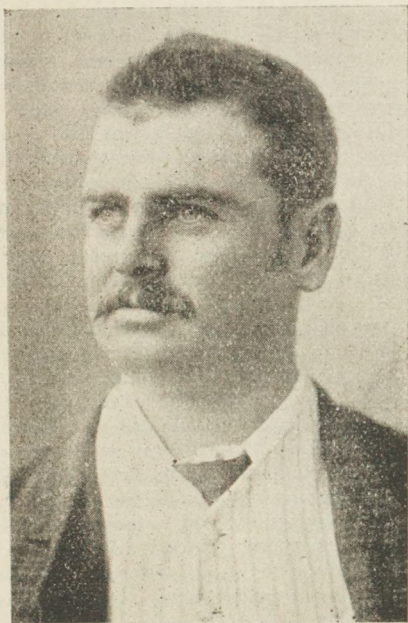
by scoring 108 in their first innings, and 38 for 3 wickets in the second, which, however, they subsequently completed for 73. Grace was disposed of in the first innings for 6 by a wonderful catch, which you hear the old hands talk about with pride to this day. The batsman made a mighty hit, and Alexander Crooks, leaning back against the chain which surrounded the ground, caught it with one hand. What a cheer he must have got from the 5,000 spectators. Grace strenuously objected to go out, because he said the ball had been caught beyond the boundary, but the umpire ruled against him, probably much to the regret of the onlookers, who would have liked to see the great man give an exhibition of his wondrous skill. The bowlers who distinguished themselves were Cole, 5 for 30 and 4 for 32; Lungley, 4 for 36 and 2 for 22; and Scott 0 for 13 and 4 for 10. Lungley it was who, helped by Crooks, secured W. G.'s wicket in the first innings, but in the second Scott covered himself with glory by clean bowling the champion of champions. The South Australians had on the whole performed creditably and were complimented by the English captain, who, however, had let them down lightly by not putting McIntyre on at all, and bowling himself with Boult in the second innings; in the first the slows of Southerton and Lillywhite, whose averages were respectively 13 for 24 and 8 for 38, had completely baffled most of the batsmen. The match,

which was played on March 26, 27, and 28, yielded a handsome profit. On the second day Government offices, Banks, and many of the warehouses were closed in the afternoon, and trains and coaches poured crowds of country folk into the city. The charges for admission were 2s. 6d. to the ground and 5s. to the reserve, but hundreds of people witnessed the game from Montefiore Hill, whence in those days, before the trees round the Oval had grown very high, a capital view of proceedings on the ground could be obtained. Keen public interest was displayed in the game. As an instance of the satisfaction that was felt at Grace having been prevailed upon to play here, I may mention that the late Sir Thomas Elder without any request being made to him gave Mr. H. Y. Sparks, the Secretary of the Association, a week's leave of absence in order that he might better look after the arrangements for the match. Sir Thomas, like many other prominent citizens who witnessed the game, knew very little about cricket, and one of his first questions when he reached the Oval was, "Which are the wickets?"

The financial success of the first match of an English Eleven on the Adelaide Oval encouraged the Association three years later, when Lillywhite's team of professionals was out here, to negotiate for them to open their tour in Adelaide. This time it was not necessary to give a guarantee, as the Englishmen, for whom Mr. Conway, of Victoria, acted as agent,

were satisfied to accept a share of the gross receipts. Since then, with one exception, every English Eleven that has come to Australia has begun its tour in South Australia. Lillywhite's team played twenty-two of South Australia. The game took place in November, 1876, and the visitors defeated our men with the greatest ease with an innings to spare. They scored 153 against 54 and 53. One of the features of the play of the winners was the clever running between the wickets of Jupp and Selby, which was quite a revelation to us. When 3 wickets were down the Englishmen had made 98, but Whitridge and Goodfellow afterwards bowled so well that nobody after the first three men reached double figures. The English trundling was altogether too much for the South Australians. Alfred Shaw, perhaps the best length bowler who ever delivered a ball, could not be put away, and in one innings took 14 wickets for 12, and in the other 7 for 25, while Tom Emmett captured 6 for 14 and 6 for 11. C. H. Gibbs achieved the great distinction, by making 13 in the first attempt, of being the only double-figure scorer in either of the South Australian innings. The public took the greatest interest in the play, and on the first day, when a half-holiday was pretty generally kept in the city, there were 9,000 people present, and on the other days nearly as many. The gross receipts amounted to £1,143, of which the Association retained about £331.

Although the South Australians had done so poorly in the first match against Lillywhite's team, the splendid patronage accorded by the public led to a return



A. H. JARVIS.

contest being arranged. This was played on April 14, 16, and 17, 1877. Our representatives performed much more creditably, and their first innings score of 71 fell only 4 short of the English-

men's total. For this they were greatly indebted to J. E. Gooden, who made 28, and gave a splendid exhibition of cutting. When only nine men were out 68 was up, but the next 10 wickets fell for 9 runs and a bye. Allan Hill with his fast bowling secured 10 wickets for 9 runs. The Englishmen at their second attempt knocked up 138, and the match was then abandoned as a draw. This game is memorable, as in it George Giffen and Attie Jarvis made their first appearance in first-class cricket as lads of eighteen and sixteen years respectively. Giffen was clean bowled for a ducksegg, but Jarvis scored 8. The match was not the great financial success that the former one had been.

Two seasons later, on December 12, 13, and 14, 1878, Lord Harris's Eleven visited Adelaide, and found that our players had vastly improved, and the visitors had considerable difficulty to win by 3 wickets. The scores were—South Australia, 110 and 137 against 185 and 73. Our cricket had advanced so much that we were content to try conclusions with only 18 players instead of 22. The wicket was also much truer than it had been, the English grass having taken root on the Athelstone soil; hence the improvement in the scores. This is a game which George Giffen will not readily forget, because he was dismissed for the dreaded pair of specs—the only time, I believe, during his career. Young and promising cricketers who despair at a few failures should bear in mind then

that Giffen in his first three knocks against English bowling failed to score. A. H. Jarvis played one fine innings for 28, and Noel, who is now helping the Ports, batted capitally for 33. One interesting feature of the game was the remarkable fielding of the Englishman Vernon Royle at cover-point, while Ted Phillips, who was then unequalled in Australia at that position, emulated him. The Englishmen were very curious to see Phillips, because they had heard so much about his fielding at cover, and they afterwards praised it very highly.

During the eighties many visits were paid to Adelaide by English Elevens, and as time went on they found more formidable antagonists. When Grace was here in 1874 the wickets were so inferior that thoroughly scientific batting was impossible. The wielders of the willow were at the mercy of the bowlers, and men of rough-and-ready methods were almost as likely to succeed as those who, on true pitches, could skilfully defend their wickets. When Alfred Shaw's professional eleven arrived here in 1881 they found on the Adelaide Oval a wicket which they immediately said was the best in the world, and fifteen players amongst whom were two or three who would be a credit to any eleven. Gooden and King were the only two remaining of those who had played against W.G., but George Giffen and Noel were fine all-round cricketers, while the Englishman Hide was able to render valuable assistance to the younger men

his advice had materially helped. The 15 scored 244 and 28 for 2 wickets against 293, and the draw was highly creditable to the South Australians. Giffen played splendidly for 95—an innings which led to his selection to represent Australia in a test match immediately afterwards, and he performed so well at Melbourne that he was at once asked to join the 1882 Australian Eleven. Noel scored 27 and secured 2 wickets for 22, and there were many people who thought that at that time he was a better player than Giffen, and should have been taken to England. Had he gone to the old country “Happy Jack” would probably have amused the spectators as Coningham did in 1893; nevertheless I feel sure he would have rendered a good account of himself. However, like Reedman, eleven years later, he had the misfortune to be just beyond the pale, and he did not have a trip round the world.

When the Hon. Ivo Bligh came to Australia in 1882 on a pilgrimage after the ashes of English cricket he opened his tour at Adelaide, but as he and his team, owing to the delay of the steamer, arrived on a Friday morning, and played in the afternoon without having had practice, they were not in condition to do themselves justice. They scored only 153 owing to the fine bowling of Quilty, a lefthander and one of the best trundlers South Australia has had. The fifteen replied with 123 for 7 wickets, towards which Noel contributed 37 and Walter Giffen, then a lad in his

nineteenth year, 33. Walter was a hitter in his young days, and would probably have achieved greater success if he had gone on as he began instead of developing into a stonewaller.

In 1884-85 Alfred Shaw was here again with a powerful team, which twice tried conclusions with a South Australian Fifteen—the opening and closing matches of their tour. In the first game they were not in their best form, and though George Giffen, who had not returned from an English tour, was away, only managed to defeat the fifteen by 3 wickets in a moderate-scoring match. At that time enthusiastic Joe Rundell, now of the Port Adelaide Club, was bowling capitally, and he secured 6 of the English wickets for only 50 runs. The Englishmen were finally set 123 runs, and Noel—4 for 24—bowled so well that they lost 7 wickets. The return game, which was drawn vastly in favour of the Englishmen, who scored 367, is noteworthy because in it Jack Lyons and Harry Blinman played for the first time against English bowling, and were the highest contributors to the total of 141—Lyons with 30 and Blinman with 29. Since then the one man has risen to greatness in the world of cricket; the other never quite fulfilled all his early promise. Giffen and Jarvis, who were at that time the best batsmen in the colony, scored only 6 each.

That season was made memorable by the playing of a test match—the first which had taken place in South Australia on the Adelaide



J. J. LYONS.

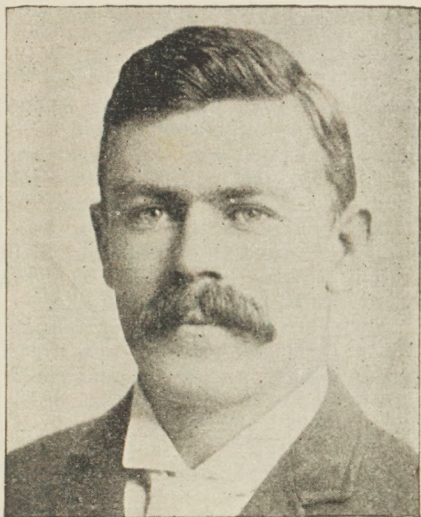
Oval. The contesting parties were Shaw's team and the 1884 Australian Eleven, which, however, was minus Spofforth, its best bowler. Moreover, most of the Australians, although they had to be paid £450 to play, did not trouble to practise, and they were easily defeated by 7 wickets. The late Percy McDonnell, Blackham, and Giffen, who worked hard at the nets for nearly a fortnight beforehand, made nearly all the runs, and McDonnell gave us those incomparable exhibitions in compiling 124 and 83 which those who saw them still regard as the finest they have seen. I never saw more charming batting, and I shall never forget the disappointment every one felt when Giffen stupidly ran him out in the second innings, because he seemed certain to accomplish the then extremely rare feat of making the double century.

Arthur Shrewsbury was here twice in 1886-87 with a very formidable professional eleven. George Giffen was absent on each occasion, but Lyons and Jarvis saved South Australia from disgrace, and each game was drawn in favour of the visitors. In the first Lyons captured 6 wickets for 98, and scored 27 and 43, and in the other Jarvis batted brilliantly for 77 and 42. Jarvie was a brilliant batsman at that time, on perfect wickets, and his batting was of a character which made him the idol of the crowds who visited the Oval.

A few months later G. F. Vernon's Eleven was here. South Australia was

now out of her cricket swaddling-clothes. Her players had performed so creditably with fifteen representatives against recent English teams that the visitors would not tackle more than eleven. They were wise, for, although they won the first match, in which George Giffen did the hat trick, they were given a rare shaking in the second contest. The latter engagement is memorable because of an event that was not creditable to South Australia. I allude to the damaging of the wicket during the night after the third day's play. The local men, who had failed in the first innings, and had followed on, were in a hopeless plight, for the wicket was badly worn. During the night some miscreant, for what purpose it is difficult to imagine, unless it were to so damage the wicket that play would be impossible, and that thus the South Australians would be saved, watered and roughly rolled the pitch. When we reached the ground in the morning the wicket was like a mass of partially cooled glue, while there were on it a ridge left by the iron roller and deep footprints. Vernon, Read, and the other Englishmen were annoyed, and would not have proceeded with the game had they not, like everybody else, thought the South Australians would be all out for less than 100. For an hour and a half after play was resumed the wicket was difficult, but Giffen and Godfrey batted splendidly. After lunch the pitch played capitally, and the end of it all was that South Aus-

tralia amassed 493, which to this day is the highest score which a single colony has recorded against an English Eleven. Giffen's 203 was a masterpiece, and Godfrey gave the finest display of his all too brief career in compiling 119. The game was finally drawn.



J. DARLING.

Four years elapsed before another English Eleven visited the colonies, and then the Earl of Sheffield's Eleven easily defeated our men, who gave a disappointing display.

Now we come to the most glorious victory ever achieved by South Australian cricketers, the six-wickets win over Stoddart's Eleven in 1894. This is so fresh in the memory that it is needless to narrate at length how, after England had begun with the mammoth score of 476, our men delighted South Australians by knocking up 383; or how Joe Darling in his first knock against English bowling played a great batsman's innings for 117, which won him a place in the Australian Eleven; or how George Giffen, having a day out, secured 6 wickets for 49, and the visitors were out for 130—what a falling-off from 476!—or how Reedman belted their bowling to the tune of 83; and Darling finished off the game by lifting a ball to the asphalt track. That was a victory to be proud of, if you like.

Ten years ago we had only four or five really first-class players; now we have seven or eight, and if we cannot hold our own with a representative English Eleven touring the colonies, which is not expected, we could give any county eleven in England a splendid run.



CHAPTER VIII.

INTERCOLONIAL MATCHES.

Steps Taken to Arrange a Game with Victoria—The First Match—South Australia Has Odds—Public Objection to the Entrance-fee—Victoria Wins Easily—Excellent Bowling—How the Wicket was Rolled in '74—South Australia Handsomely Wins the Return Game—Non-representative Intercolonial Contests—Giffen's First Intercolonial—A Splendid Performance—A "No-ball" Incident—How the Captains Were Chosen—A Cricketer Loses His Situation—A Visit from Tasmanian Players—A Fine Left-hand Bowler—The "Muffs"—Two Noteworthy Performances—The March of Improvement—Regular Matches Commenced with Victoria—The First Defeat—A Remarkable Bowling Average—A Record Encircled with Black—Shocking Batting—Interesting Episodes—An Extraordinary Victory—South Australia's Best Score—Giffen's Magnificent Record—Matches Begun with New South Wales—Home and Home Matches Instituted—New South Australian Stars—The Sheffield Shield—Some Remarkable Games—Good and Bad Performances—South Australia's Record in Intercolonials.

I have already mentioned incidentally that in March, 1871, before the Adelaide

Oval was formed, Mr. John Hill, Secretary of the Norwood Club, wrote to Melbourne with the view of arranging a match between Victoria and South Australia, and that nothing then came of the proposal. So soon, however, as the Oval was established steps were once more taken to bring about an intercolonial contest with our nearest neighbours. The idea was several times mooted in 1872 and 1873, but the new wicket was not considered to be good enough for so important a match to be played upon it. The tolerable show our players had made against W. G. Grace's formidable eleven in 1874 caused the notion of a contest against Victoria to be revived, and the subsequent season was inaugurated by a team from the sister colony meeting eighteen of South Australia on the Adelaide Oval.

The first intercolonial match did not excite particularly keen interest. One reason possibly was that although they were to play eighteen of our men the Victorians did not consider it necessary to bring over their strongest team, and their eleven included only four of the players who represented the colony in the more important engagement with New South Wales in the following month. Another cause of the comparatively small attendance was that the public did not take kindly to the charge of 2s. for admission. The takings for the three days amounted to £285. The new couch-grass wicket was of inferior quality, and all against the batsmen, so that the scores were not large. The South Aus-

traliains began well enough by making 108 against 92, but having got rid of their opponents again for 98 they utterly failed against the bowling of Cosstick and Horan, and, being dismissed for 67 runs, were beaten by 15 runs. Horan, who in his early days was a bowler as well as a batsman, secured the fine average of 11 for 29, while wily Sam Cosstick's figures were 6 for 32—in the first innings he captured 11 for 41. The top-scorer for South Australia was Lynn, who with 13—11 was the only batsman to reach double figures in each innings. Crichton made 23 in his first try, but failed in his second.

The local bowlers who most distinguished themselves were Scott, 10 wickets for 72, and Lungley 4 for 19. Scott actually bowled throughout both innings of the Victorians, and of his 103 overs no fewer than 66 were maidens. The Victorian captain highly complimented the eighteen upon the dexterity of their fielding, from which he said his men might take a lesson.

The players of those days did not have all the conveniences that are furnished to cricketers of the present time. For instance, we read that on the second day while the caterer was getting the luncheon ready "some half a dozen sturdy men of the teams got in the shafts, whilst an equal number added their weight to the roller, and the pitch was rolled ready for the resumption of the game."

A return visit was not paid to Melbourne, but towards the close of the next season another Victorian eleven came to Adelaide. It was admittedly

non-representative, a circumstance which robbed the innings and 77 runs defeat inflicted of some of its glory for South



W. O. WHITRIDGE,
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Australia, but it contained such players as Jas. Slight (then at his best), John Conway, and Tom Kendall (one of the finest of left-hand bowlers). The scores

were South Australian (18) 157, Victoria 29—51. The principal performances for the eighteen were the bowling of W. O. Whitridge, whose analyses were 20.50. 12m. 10r. 8w., and 21.10. 15m. 14r. 3w.— uncommonly good figures—and the batting of L. Giles, who played splendidly for 47.

Some years elapsed before the annual games with Victoria were resumed. There were not then the facilities for travelling that exist now. The journey between the two cities had to be made by sea in the once-popular steamer *Aldinga*, and so much time was taken up that the matches were not continued in the seventies, although doubtless they would have been if the South Australians had been strong enough to make a good fight on level terms with Victoria's best eleven. There were, however, trials of skill between Victorian and South Australian teams of a non-representative character. For instance, towards the close of the season 1876-77 the East Melbourne Club, which included Horan and Boyle, came to Adelaide, and after an exciting game defeated the South Australian eleven by 2 wickets. This game is chiefly interesting now because in it George Giffen played for the first time in an important contest, and, with 16—14, was the highest scorer in each innings. Another notable incident was that Mr. H. H. Budd, the Victorian umpire, "called" the bowling of Whitridge, about whose delivery there was just then considerable discussion. Of course, those who had contended that Whitridge-

threw were doubly convinced when Mr. Budd no-balled him, but later on in the season the other side received support from no less eminent an authority than Mr. James Lillywhite, who said Whitridge's bowling was "perfectly fair."

While reading a reference to the important matches that were played at this time I came across the following paragraph, which will interest many people of the present time:—"The Association have hitherto appointed a captain for each team they have sent into the field." This course I heard advocated so recently as last season, but the objection raised was that no precedent existed for it. There is, however, as I have just shown a precedent, though I question whether it would be a wise one to follow.

Another suggestive incident connected with the match against East Melbourne was that one of the local players lost his situation for taking part in the game. No doubt he played without the leave of his employer, but you seldom hear of such a thing nowadays. If a man is good enough to play some one connected with the Association generally manages to get on the right side of the employer if that gentleman happens not to be a lover of cricket, though I know of a striking instance which occurred in recent times of a cricketer's devotion to the game costing him his situation.

An intercolonial match which deserves more than passing reference was played in 1877. The Queen and Albert Association, a junior organization, had with con-

siderable enterprise brought to Adelaide a Tasmanian Eleven, and while they were here the only contest on record between representative South Australian and Tasmanian teams took place. Our men won easily by an innings and 13 runs. They were mainly indebted to J. Bevan, one of the finest left-arm bowlers South Australia has had, who captured 6 wickets for 23 and 8 for 36.

The time was now drawing nigh when the series of matches with Victoria, afterwards uninterrupted, was to begin, but before South Australia ventured to send an eleven to Melbourne Mr. J. N. Hines pluckily attacked the Victorian clubs on their own grounds with a team called "the Muffs," although there were in it several of the colony's leading players. The tourists met with fair success.

Although no real intercolonial matches were being played, South Australia had performed more than creditably against the 1878 and 1880 Australian Elevens. The return match with the former team the eighteen won by 20 runs, and in 1880 with their numbers reduced to sixteen the South Australians gained an easy victory by 69 runs. These victories were not due entirely to the exceptional performances of one or two men, though in 1878 Bevan, and in 1889 J. E. Goodfellow, secured excellent bowling averages; but many young players had been trained under Hide's coaching into fine cricketers. Most notable among these were G. Giffen, Jarvis, Noel, H. A. Gooden, Richards, and Pettinger, while the two Slights, W. and

A., who had come from Melbourne, proved valuable acquisitions. Jarvis had, indeed, shown such wonderful skill as a stumper, and had, besides, been so successful with the bat—in December, 1889, he scored 189, which for many years remained the record for the colony, for an Association Eleven against a Northern Eighteen—that he was asked to join the 1880 Australian Eleven.

This was unquestionably the period when South Australian cricket made its second great stride in the march of improvement—the first had been taken immediately after the Adelaide Oval came into regular use. Their success against the Australian Elevens encouraged the South Australians to believe that a thoroughly representative eleven of the colony could hold its own with our neighbours in the east, and the New South Wales Association was invited to send a team to Adelaide in 1880, but the invitation was declined. Ten years elapsed before South Australia first measured blades with New South Wales. In 1880-81 correspondence was opened with the Victorian Association, and our people agreed to send an eleven to Melbourne if the Victorian body would reciprocate later on in the season. The time was not, however, ripe for home-and-home matches every year, but annual games were instituted, and eleven years afterwards, when the Sheffield Shield had to be competed for, home-and-home contests were commenced.

It is not my purpose to review at length all the intercolonial matches South

Australia has played since 1880, but only to mention a few of the salient features of an exceedingly interesting series. The

J. Noel. H. A. Gooden. J. Hide. A. Slight. A. M. Pettinger.



T. O. Richards. W. Bullough. J. E. Gooden (Capt.).
F. King. G. Giffen. W. Slight. J. E. Goodfellow.

FIRST SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELEVEN THAT PLAYED AGAINST VICTORIA.

names of the First South Australian Eleven are worth giving. They were:—

J. Noel, H. A. Gooden, W. Slight, G. Giffen, J. Hide, T. O. Richards, F. King, A.

M. Pettinger, J. E. Gooden, W. Bullough, and J. E. Goodfellow ; emergency, A. Slight.

A. H. Jarvis was away touring with the 1880 Australian Eleven, but for the same reason Blackham, Boyle, Palmer, McDonnell, and Midwinter were absent from Victoria. With this formidable quintet out of the way the South Australians were confident of winning their first engagement on level terms with Victoria, but they were so appalled at having to go in against 329 runs that they were all disposed of for a miserable 77. That this was not their true form they showed by compiling 314 at their second attempt, but they made runs in the wrong innings, and were defeated by 7 wickets. Horan had the distinction of opening the century record against South Australia, while for our men Slight, who unfortunately retired from the field when he was in his prime, made 70, Giffen 63, Gooden 49, and Hide 48, scores which demonstrated that we had good batsmen.

A comparatively weak team of Victoria won the second match, played at Adelaide, by 151 runs. The Victorians then held us cheaply, and paid the penalty, for South Australia, with George Giffen away too, won the third match by 31 runs. In this game one of our men, J. Quilty, a left-hander, secured one of the best averages recorded in intercolonials. Nine wickets, 6 clean bowled, fell to him for only 55 runs—a remarkable record on an Adelaide Oval wicket.

The match played at Melbourne in March, 1883, stands in the South Austra-

lian records encircled with a black border not merely because our representatives lost by an innings and 98 runs, but because in their first innings they were dismissed by Boyle and Palmer for 23 runs. They won the toss, too, and went in first. Noel, who began the innings with Giffen, was responsible for 18 out of the 23 runs! Jarvis, Hide, Walter Giffen, King, Gooden, and Richards, all good batsmen, failed to score. The fact of the matter was that the reputations of Boyle and Palmer, who had just come back from England, awed the batsmen. The insignificant score is the lowest recorded in inter-colonial contests. I recollect the astonishment the announcement of it caused in Adelaide. People could not realize that ten batsmen had been dismissed for 5 runs—it transpired afterwards that one of those 5 was a no-ball—and many of them believed, until fuller confirmation was received, that some one in Melbourne was playing a cruel hoax upon them.

The Victorians had been fully represented in this match, but their easy victory led our neighbours to lightly regard South Australian cricketers, and though a contest took place annually Victoria did not for many seasons place her best eleven in the field. Meanwhile South Australian cricket was improving rapidly. George Giffen was rising to that pinnacle on which for some years he stood alone; in 1885 Lyons inaugurated his connection with intercolonial matches with a double 21; in 1886 Godfrey began

his brief record against Victoria by scoring 38—80, which made him the highest scorer in the match—this is one of the most remarkable initial individual performances recorded in connection with intercolonial cricket—A. H. Jarvis was generally good for a fair score; Walter Giffen and Blinman had become useful players; Reedman in 1888 began his career as a serviceable intercolonial player by going in last and being clean bowled for 0; and Fred Jarvis afterwards came into the eleven.

The games which took place while South Australia was thus gradually strengthening her team were not devoid of interesting episodes. For instance, in 1884 Victoria going in on the fifth day with 369 runs between them and victory accomplished their task with 6 wickets down. In 1888 Victoria having followed on and lost 8 wickets before they had equalled South Australia's one-inning's score, actually won by 15 runs, and thus achieved—thanks to the batting of Horan and Dr. Barrett—what is one of the most extraordinary victories recorded in the annals of the game. In 1889 we witnessed the unique experience in first-class cricket of a player, in the person of George Giffen, defying the umpire and declining to go out when the decision was against him, and in 1891 South Australia scored 562, the best score made in any intercolonial matches in which she has taken part. South Australia held her own in these contests. At length, as the nineties com-

menced, the Victorians began to realize that the wheat fielders were quite strong enough to defeat even the best eleven they could place in the field, and since then our men have invariably had to meet the full strength of the sister colony.

To the magnificent all-round play of George Giffen South Australia largely owed whatever success she achieved during the twelve years that elapsed between the time when she first played Victoria and the season when home-and-home matches were begun against New South Wales and Victoria. Lyons, Godfrey, and Jarvis performed remarkably well, and Blinman, Walter Giffen, Rundell, and others did creditably, but Giffen accomplished more than any four men, and with a wonderful succession of batting and bowling feats earned the title of Australia's champion. George is getting on in years now, and is no longer the invincible player of half a dozen years ago. Still, however, he performs admirably, but his greatest deeds against Victoria were witnessed during the eight seasons which ended in 1891-92, when he was at his zenith, and they were so remarkable that I shall reproduce them:—

Year.	Batting.	Bowling.
1884-85 ...	0—73	5 for 87; 5 for 49.
1885-86 ...	20—82	9 for 91; 8 for 110.
1886-87 ...	4—0	8 for 83; 4 for 104.
1887-88 ...	106	8 for 65; 6 for 60.
1888-89 ...	135—19	6 for 82; 7 for 77.
1889-90 ...	85—9	1 for 108; 7 for 104.
1890-91 ...	237	5 for 89; 7 for 103.
1891-92 ...	271	9 for 96; 7 for 70.



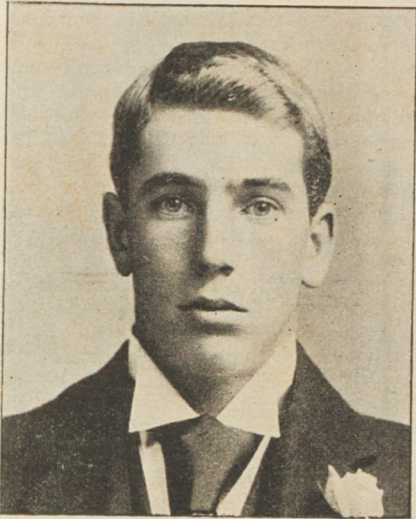
GEORGE GIFFEN.

These figures give him 1,101 runs for 13 innings; average 84·69, and 102 wickets for 1,378 runs, average 13·4. In those matches South Australia scored 3,316 runs and captured 160 wickets, so that Giffen made as nearly as possible one-third of the runs off his own bat, and captured five-eighths of the wickets. Did any other cricketer ever have so marvellous a record? I doubt whether even W. G., champion of champions, can point to a more remarkable array of all-round figures. Wonderful cricketer though he was, Giffen was not a great captain, and I have no hesitation in saying now, what I have repeatedly written before, that I have seen him by his faulty judgment as captain lose matches in which his extraordinary skill with bat and ball had given South Australia winning positions.

In 1890 South Australia first met New South Wales on the cricket field. Our players were badly beaten in the first two games, but brilliantly won the third by an innings and 53 runs. Then home-and-home games with both Victoria and New South Wales were begun.

In 1892-93 the three leading cricket colonies began the annual competitions for the handsome £150 shield which the Earl of Sheffield had presented to them in gratitude for the hospitality which had been extended to him and his team during their tour in Australia in 1891-92. It then became necessary for New South Wales and Victoria to play home-and-home matches every season with South

Australia. Fortunately for our colony two new cricketers of the first grade now came forward, or our record in the shield matches would not be so good as it is. I refer to Jones, the fast bowler, and Darling, the left-hand batsman.



CLEM. HILL.

Two years later the young cricket prodigy Hill was introduced to first-class cricket. Now the colony can place in the field an eleven capable of holding its own with the best the other colonies can select. South

Australia has only once held the Shield -- in 1893-94—and for the five years aggregated her record is inferior to that of either of the other colonies. Nevertheless, considering that her population is not one-third so large as that of either New South Wales or Victoria, and that she has fewer cricket-grounds, she may well be satisfied with the performances of her representatives. The colony is fortunate in having five of the best cricketers in the colonies, and it seems remarkable, when you think of it, that there are so many more players in New South Wales and Victoria than there are in South Australia that on two occasions the least populous colony of the three has had five of her men chosen in an Australian Eleven.

The following figures indicate the composite results of the contests for the Sheffield Shield to the close of last season :—

Colony.	Won.	Lost.	Runs.	Wickets Lost.	Average.	Runs Against.	Wickets Taken.	Average.
N.S.W.	11	9	8,779	323	26·92	8,779	375	23·41
Vic. ...	11	9	9,079	364	24·94	9,034	360	25·09
S.A....	8	12	8,762	379	23·11	8,807	334	26·36

South Australia has taken part in some remarkable games in competition for the Shield. One was played at Adelaide in December, 1893, when our cricketers compiled 483, the highest score which has been made off New South Wales bowling, and won the game by 237 runs. Another took place at Sydney in February, 1896. On this occasion the South Australians,

after an opening score of 400, towards which Hill contributed 206 not out and Darling 121, were defeated by 9 wickets. Iredale batted magnificently for 187 and 80 not out, which is as near as any Australian batsman has gone to the double century in a first-class match.

While New South Wales has won the last five matches against South Australia our players have exactly held their own in the home-and-home contests with Victoria. Two of their best performances were to put out the Victorians on a sticky wicket for 43—the lowest score made against South Australia—in 1896 (Jones took 6 wickets for 15 runs), and to compile against the same colony in one afternoon last February 343 runs for 3 wickets. Rain before the game was resumed probably saved the Victorians from having a record score made against them.

A couple of feats by individual players are worthy of special mention. In South Australia's second innings at Melbourne in January, 1897, Lyons and Darling knocked up 142 for the first wicket, and in their next essay against the same colony six weeks later actually registered 184, which is the intercolonial match record for the first wicket.

This, however, is only one side of the picture. The other is not quite so pleasant for South Australians to look upon. There are two records inscribed against our bowlers, viz., the highest scores made in Australia for the ninth and last wickets, and they were compiled

in consecutive matches. First of all at Melbourne in January, 1897, O'Halloran and Johns scored 136 for the last Victorian wicket, and exactly a week later Garrett and McKibbin made 170 for the ninth New South Wales wicket. These adverse totals were in no small measure due to aggravating blunders by fieldsmen.

When I began these reminiscences I determined that I would not weary my readers with pages of statistics, but as the complete South Australian records in matches with New South Wales and Victoria have never been published I cannot lose this opportunity of presenting them. They are compiled to the end of the season 1896-97.

The colony had until the close of last season played 23 eleven-a-side matches with Victoria, of which Victoria had won 12 and South Australia 11. The following is a concise summary of the results:—

South Australia—9,569 runs for 400 wickets; average per wicket, 23·92 runs.

Victoria—9,449 runs for 418 wickets; average per wicket, 22·60 runs.

The record against New South Wales is very different, as of the thirteen games our opponents have won nine against South Australia's four. The summary is—

New South Wales, 5,335 runs for 194 wickets; average per wicket, 27·50.

South Australia, 5,253 runs for 246 wickets; average per wicket, 21·35.

The following are South Australians' batting and bowling averages against the two colonies:—

BATTING.

Batted in not less than ten innings and averaged over 20.

Batsmen.	Inngs	Not out.	Runs.	Highest score.	Average.
Giffen, G. ...	61	3	3,135	271	54·05
Lyons, J. J. ...	53	1	2,158	145	41·5
Hill, C. ...	20	2	725	206*	40·27
Darling, J. ...	29	2	924	121	34·22
Dyer, R. H. ...	11	0	282	102	25·63
Redman, J. ...	50	3	1,050	113	22·37
Blinman, H. ...	32	6	580	73*	22·3
Jarvis, A. H. ...	43	3	822	98*	20·55
Other Batsmen—					
Amos, W. ...	4	0	18	9	4·5
Bailey, B. T. R. ...	7	0	111	45	15·8
Bullough, W. ...	4	1	43	26*	14·33
Carracher, A. ...	3	1	30	14	15
Chittleborough, H. ...	4	0	19	9	4·75
Claxton, W. D. ...	4	0	154	73	38·5
Delaney, W. ...	6	1	28	18	5·6
Evan, L. W. ...	3	0	5	3	1·66
Evans, A. E. H. ...	9	1	104	39	13
Giffen, W. F. ...	31	2	501	89	17·27
Godfrey, C. G. ...	7	0	233	80	33·28
Gooden, H. A. ...	4	1	60	49	20
Gooden, J. E. ...	15	1	168	39	12
Haldane, H. Le ...	13	1	208	70	17·33
Hayward, C. W. ...	2	0	29	27	14·5
Hide, J. ...	8	0	83	48	10·37
Hill, A. ...	10	1	121	60	13·44
Hiscock, E. J. ...	7	0	58	39	8·28
Jarvis, F. ...	41	5	484	68	13·44
Jones, E. ...	37	7	344	66*	11·48
Jones, W. ...	4	2	31	26	15·5
Kemp, C. ...	6	2	93	38	23·25
King, F. ...	12	2	145	34	14·5
Knill, W. ...	10	1	105	26	11·66
Leak, E. H. ...	5	1	26	17	5·2
Martin, C. ...	5	0	40	13	8
McKenzie, J. ...	15	1	146	32	10·42
Noel, J. ...	24	1	324	61	14·8
Parkin, G. ...	14	4	61	18	6·1
Phillips, E. G. ...	6	3	37	18	6·16
Quilty, J. ...	4	1	2	2	·66
Richards, T. O. ...	8	0	40	24	5
Rundell, J. U. ...	4	0	27	15	6·75
Scrymgour, B. V. ...	7	1	28	8	4·66
Slight, W. ...	6	0	134	70	22·33
Tardif, J. ...	8	0	102	41	12·75
Travers, J. ...	7	4	25	10*	8·33
Turner, T. ...	6	5	42	12	42
Watling, W. ...	7	0	155	58	22·14
Wigley, R. S. ...	4	0	22	10	5·5
Wilkinson, A. ...	5	0	47	21	9·4

The following took part in only one match :—D. Ballans, 2 innings, 15 runs ; J. Brideson, 2 innings, 52 runs ; T. A. Caterer, 2 innings (1 not out), 0 run ; E. H. Coombe, 1 innings, 10 runs ; J. J. Ferris, 1 innings, 0 run ; J. E. Goodfellow, 2 innings, 7 runs ; A. Green, 2 innings (1 not out), 11 runs ; R. J. Hill, 2 innings (1 not out), 3 runs ; R. Homburg, 2 innings, 14 runs ; W. A. Magarey, 2 innings, 7 runs ; H. Moore, 1 innings, 0 run ; J. Musgrove, 1 innings, 35 runs ; A. M. Pettinger, 2 innings, 12 runs ; A. Slight, 2 innings (1 not out), 17 runs ; A. E. Waldron, 2 innings, 6 runs ; *G. Watsford, 2 innings, 2 runs.

CENTURIES BY SOUTH AUSTRALIANS (21).

G. GIFFEN (9).

Against.	Date.	Where made.	Score.
Victoria	November, 1891	Adelaide	271
Victoria	January, 1891	Melbourne	237
N.S.W.	December, 1893	Adelaide	205
Victoria	November, 1893	Adelaide	181
Victoria	February, 1888	Adelaide	166
Victoria	December, 1888	Melbourne	135
N.S.W.	January, 1892	Sydney	120
N.S.W.	January, 1897	Sydney	104*
Victoria	January, 1894	Melbourne	103

J. J. LYONS (8).

N.S.W.	January, 1892	Sydney	145
Victoria	February, 1895	Melbourne	135
Victoria	December, 1889	Adelaide	134
N.S.W.	December, 1892	Adelaide	124
Victoria	November, 1891	Adelaide	104
Victoria	March, 1894	Adelaide	101
Victoria	February, 1897	Adelaide	113
Victoria	January, 1897	Melbourne	110

C. HILL.

N.S.W.	February, 1896	Sydney	206*
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J. DARLING.

N.S.W.	February, 1896	Sydney	121
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J. REEDMAN.

Victoria	March, 1894	Adelaide	113
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R. H. DYER.

Victoria	November, 1894	Adelaide	102
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CENTURIES AGAINST SOUTH AUSTRALIA (12).

For.	Date.	Where Made.	Score.
F. A. IREDALE.			
N.S.W.	March, 1896	Sydney	187

For.	Date.	Where Made.	Score.
		G. H. S. TROTT.	
Victoria	February, 1895	Melbourne	152
		T. W. GARRETT.	
N.S.W.	January, 897	Sydney	131
		H. DONNAN.	
N.S.W.	December, 1892	Adelaide	120
		T. HORAN.	
Victoria	November, 1880	Melbourne	113
		J. TRINNICK.	
Victoria	February, 1884	Adelaide	109
		H. F. BOYLE.	
Victoria	April, 1881	Adelaide	108
		J. J. KELLY.	
N.S.W.	January, 1897	Sydney	108
		J. HARRY.	
Victoria	November, 1895	Adelaide	107
		F. LAVER.	
Victoria	March, 1893	Adelaide	104
		H. MOSES.	
N.S.W.	January, 1894	Sydney	104
		R. W. MCLEOD.	
Victoria	March, 1893	Adelaide	101

BOWLING.

Bowlers.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Ave.
Bowled over 1,000 balls—					
Giffen, G. ...	2,145.4	584	5,028	258	19.41
Jones, E. ...	874.4	213	2,269	105	21.6
Noel, J. ...	246.3	90	407	14	29.07
Reedman, J. ...	306.1	93	888	28	31.71
Jarvis, F. ...	771.3	196	1,844	51	36.15
Lyons, J. J. ...	211.2	71	511	12	42.58
Other Bowlers—					
Amos, W. ...	35	6	129	1	129
Bullough, W. ...	108.2	49	176	8	22
Claxton, W. D. ...	69.3	10	192	6	32
Gooden, J. E. ...	18	7	36	1	36
Haldane, H. Le... ..	26	7	69	3	23
Hide, J. ...	104.3	42	153	6	25.5
Jarvis, A. H. ...	6	1	17	0	—
Jones, W. ...	111	41	248	5	49.6
Kemp, C. ...	16	4	69	1	69
King, F. ...	90.5	52	157	6	26.16
McKenzie, J. ...	16	7	20	1	20
Phillips, E. G. ...	66	5	99	1	99
Quilty, J. ...	68.1	12	130	11	12.81
Parkin, G. ...	64	20	146	3	48.66
Richards, T. O. ...	37.2	9	83	1	83
Rundell, J. U. ...	90	43	120	8	15
Slight, W. ...	27.2	18	52	2	26
Travers, J. ...	49	9	138	2	69
Turner, T. ...	55	24	108	0	—

The following bowled in only one match:—
Brideson, J., 28—8—75—0; Caterer, T. A.,
31—15—42—1; Chittleborough, H. C., 3—0—
8—0; Delaney, W., 25—3—72—1; Ferris, J.
J., 1—0—3—0; Giffen, W. F., 3—0—15—0;
Gooden, H. A., 12—3—24—1; Goodfellow,
J. E., 43—24—51—1; Green, A., 1—0—6—0;
Homburg, R., 3—1—8—0; Moore, H., 10—3—
24—1; Musgrove, J., 7—0—22—0; Waldron,
A. E., 23.1—13—18—3; Wilkinson, A., 13—2
23—0.



CHAPTER IX.

THE SENIOR ASSOCIATED CLUBS.

Twenty-five Years of Club Cricket—Each Season's Results — An Interesting Summary—Players of the Seventies—The Winners of all the Trophies—Batting and Bowling Averages.

Next in importance to intercolonial matches have been the contests between the clubs comprising the South Australian Cricketing Association. In these our leading players have taken part, and as, with rare exceptions when a country cricketer has been chosen, the men to represent the colony in international and intercolonial engagements have been selected from the senior clubs a considerable amount of interest—the exact degree has varied—has always been taken in the Saturday afternoon matches. I do not purpose to enter upon a detailed account of the performances of the clubs; my principal object in referring to them at all is to place before the public a concise record of senior club work. The figures I give below should appear on merit boards at the head-quarters of club cricket, a plan which is adopted on most well-regulated cricket-grounds in the world. The omission to preserve the old records entailed some amount of searching for them, and I find now that accurate detailed particulars regarding the club cricket played during the first two years

life of the Association are not obtainable. From the season 1874-75 onwards full statistics have been published annually in *The Register*, and I am therefore, able to present tables showing the positions occupied by the clubs and the first and second batsmen and bowlers of each season. The results of the various seasons' competitions have been:—

1873-74.

Norwood, 1; Kensington, 2; South Australian, Kent, and North Adelaide about equal; records incomplete. A regular programme not arranged.

1874-75.

1875-76.

1874-75.			1875-76.				
Clubs.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Clubs.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
Kensington ...	9	2	3	Norwood ...	9	3	—
Norwood ...	8	3	2	South Adelaide	8	4	—
North Adelaide	6	4	1	Hindmarsh ...	7	5	—
Kent ...	4	6	—	North Adelaide	6	6	—
Hindmarsh ...	3	2	3	Kensington ...	5	7	—
S. Australian ...	2	7	1	Kent ...	5	7	—
Thebarton ...	—	8	2	S. Australian ...	1	11	—
1876-77.			1877-78.				
Norwood ...	11	1	—	Norwood ...	12	0	—
Hindmarsh ...	9	3	—	South Adelaide	7	5	—
North Adelaide	6	4	—	Hindmarsh ...	6	6	—
Kensington ...	5	4	—	Kensington ...	6	6	—
South Adelaide	3	6	—	North Adelaide	5	7	—
S. Australian ...	2	8	—	S. Australian ...	3	9	—
Kent ...	1	11	—	Kent ...	3	9	—
1878-79.			1879-80.				
Norwood ...	9	3	—	North Adelaide	10	2	—
Hindmarsh ...	8	4	—	Hindmarsh ...	10	2	—
North Adelaide	8	4	—	Norwood ...	6	6	—
Kent ...	7	4	1	Kensington ...	4	5	3
South Adelaide	4	8	—	South Adelaide	4	7	1
Kensington ...	4	7	1	Kent ...	3	8	1
S. Australian ...	1	11	—	S. Australian ...	2	9	1
1880-81.			1881-82.				
Hindmarsh ...	10	2	—	Norwood ...	7	1	—
North Adelaide	10	2	—	North Adelaide	6	2	—
Norwood ...	8	4	—	Hindmarsh ...	3	4	—
Kensington ...	5	7	—	Kent and S.A.	2	6	—
Kent ...	5	7	—	Kensington ...	1	6	—
South Adelaide	3	9	—				
South Australia	1	11	—				

1882-83.			1883-84.		
Norwood ...	4	1 —	Hindmarsh ...	4	1 —
Hindmarsh ...	5	1 —	Norwood ...	3	1 —
Kent and S.A.	3	3 —	North Adelaide	2	3 —
North Adelaide	2	3 —	South Adelaide	2	3 —
Kensington ...	0	6 —	Kensington ...	1	4 —
1884-85.			1885-86.		
Norwood ...	7	1 —	Norwood ...	6	1 1
North Adelaide	6	2 —	North Adelaide	5	2 —
South Adelaide	5	3 —	Hindmarsh ...	3	3 1
Hindmarsh ...	1	7 —	South Adelaide	3	4 —
Kensington ...	1	7 —	Kensington ...	—	7 —
1886-87.			1887-88.		
Norwood ...	5	2 1	Norwood ...	9	1 —
North Adelaide	4	4 —	South Adelaide	6	4 —
South Adelaide	3	4 1	Hindmarsh ...	6	4 —
Hindmarsh ...	3	4 1	Adelaide ...	4	6 —
Adelaide ...	3	4 1	North Adelaide	0	10 —
1888-89.			1889-90.		
Norwood ...	9	— —	Norwood ...	7	1 —
South Adelaide	4	5 —	Hindmarsh ...	5	3 —
Adelaide ...	4	4 —	Adelaide ...	4	4 —
Hindmarsh ...	3	5 —	North Adelaide	3	5 —
North Adelaide	1	7 —	South Adelaide	1	7 —
1890-91.			1891-92.		
Norwood ...	8	0 —	Norwood ...	5	3 —
Hindmarsh ...	4	4 —	Adelaide ...	4	3 1
Adelaide ...	3	5 —	South Adelaide	4	3 1
North Adelaide	3	5 —	Hindmarsh ...	3	5 —
South Adelaide	2	6 —	North Adelaide	3	5 —
1892-93.			1893-94.		
South Adelaide	6	2 —	South Adelaide	7	2 —
Norwood ...	5	3 —	Hindmarsh ...	6	3 1
North Adelaide	4	4 —	Adelaide ...	6	3 —
Adelaide ...	3	5 —	North Adelaide	4	4 —
Hindmarsh ...	2	6 —	Norwood ...	3	5 —
1894-95.			1895-96.		
North Adelaide	6	0 —	North Adelaide	5	1 —
South Adelaide	4	2 —	South Adelaide	4	2 —
Adelaide ...	3	3 —	Adelaide ...	4	2 —
Hindmarsh ...	2	4 —	Hindmarsh ...	3	3 —
Norwood ...	2	4 —	Austral ...	2	4 —
Port Adelaide	2	4 —	Norwood ...	2	4 —
Austral ...	2	4 —	Port Adelaide	1	5 —
1896-97.					
Norwood ...	6	3 —	South Adelaide	4	5 —
North Adelaide	5	4 —	Adelaide ...	4	4 —
Port-Austral ...	5	4 —	Hindmarsh ..	2	6 —

The above figures summarized give the following results:—

	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
Norwood	151	51	4
Hindmarsh	108	87	6
North Adelaide...	110	90	1
Adelaide	39	38	2
Port-Austral	5	4	—
South Adelaide...	92	105	3
Kensington	41	68	7
Kent	28	52	2
Austral	7	13	1
Port Adelaide	4	17	—
South Australian	12	66	2
Thebarton	—	8	2

Mere figures are apt to prove dull reading, and it may therefore be interesting if I give a brief sketch, a mere outline of what may be termed the history of the senior clubs. When the Association was formed in 1871 the clubs represented on the Committee of Management were:—South Australian, Norwood, Kent, North Adelaide Young Men, Register, Stepney, South Adelaide, and Hindmarsh. They did not play a regular series of matches with each other. The Register and Stepney Clubs did not remain long in the Association, and Hindmarsh went out temporarily owing to lack of funds, while Thebarton came in for a year or two. The Kent team, which at that time was one of the strongest in the city, also joined the Association. In 1874-75, when a programme was arranged for the first time, there were seven clubs engaged. Hindmarsh had rejoined the Association, and Kensington, a strong team from the eastern suburb, was amongst the contestants. In that season Frank King, then one of the best all-round cricketers in the city, played both

for Norwood and Hindmarsh, but men were afterwards debarred from assisting two clubs in one season, and King thenceforward devoted his allegiance entirely to Hindmarsh, whose right-hand man he proved to be for many years. One season was enough for Thebarton, whose place in the Association was taken by South Adelaide. The constitution of the Association continued unchanged for half a dozen years.

Let me recall a few of the leading players of those times. Norwood was the crack club, although Kensington held the pride of place in the first season when a programme was arranged, and North Adelaide and Hindmarsh tied for the premiership in 1879-80 and 1880-81—curiously enough, too, with exactly the same records in each season. The rival champions in the mid-seventies were W. O. Whitridge, of Norwood, who retired in 1878, and F. King, of Hindmarsh. They were invariably high on both batting and bowling tables. Batsmen of those days were J. E. Gooden, S. Morcom, H. A. Gooden, T. T. Lucas, and A. McMichael, Norwood; A. H. Jarvis and G. Green, Hindmarsh; John Hill (who on January 26, 1878, scored against Kent 102 not out, the first century compiled on the Adelaide Oval), R. Botten, W. Slight (from Melbourne), and A. M. Pettinger, North Adelaide; H. Thurgarland, C. H. Gibbs, J. D. Crichton, F. G. Stanton, J. Hardy, H. Edwards, and T. G. Fenn, Kensington; W. Knill, B. J. Featherstone, J. L.

Sellars, A. Shawyer, L. Giles, B. J. Furnell, T. O. Richards, and A. Davies, Kent; G. Dempster, C. Godfrey, G. Goodfellow, W. Coppinger, Jno. Donnell, South Adelaide; and T. F. Wigley, A. Henderson, R. Pelly, South Australian. Amongst the bowlers were S. Rigaud and T. A. Caterer, Kensington; T. N. Cole, Norwood and South Adelaide; A. Scott and R. Barnes ("The Terrible"—thus named on account of his great pace), J. Bevan, and W. Mitchell, North Adelaide; Jas. Donnell, South Adelaide; H. Arthur, Hindmarsh; J. E. Goodfellow, Kent and North Adelaide; and F. Furnell, Kent. Besides Whitridge and King as all-round players must be mentioned J. Noel, South Australian and Hindmarsh; E. G. Phillips, North Adelaide; W. Bullough, Hindmarsh; and last but not least George Giffen, who in his first season as a senior had the best bowling average, though his batting did not develop so rapidly as his bowling.

In 1882-83 the South Australians, broken by persistent non-success, dropped out of the Association, and Kent and South Adelaide amalgamated under a joint name which, however, was changed after a couple of seasons in favour of "South Adelaide." For twelve years there were only five clubs in the Association, viz., Norwood, North Adelaide, Hindmarsh, South Adelaide, and Kensington, though in 1886-87 the last-named team joined forces with the Australs, a crack junior club, and played on the Oval under the name "Adelaide." During

this period in the history of the clubs Norwood held almost uninterrupted sway, as well they might with such a fine quintet of players as George and Walter Giffen, J. J. Lyons, H. Blinman, and J. E. Gooden. In ten seasons out of twelve were they at the head of affairs, and they won their sixth trophy in 1890-91. By the way, it is a remarkable circumstance that the Norwoods have annexed all six of the trophies competed for by the Associated Clubs, and, what is quite as curious, they were ousted from the premiership only in the three seasons during the days of trophies when there were none to be won. During the twelve years to 1892-93 Norwood lost only fifteen matches. What honors were left the other clubs divided pretty evenly. Hindmarsh, with the Jarvises, Noel, King, and C. Chittleborough, generally had a good side; North Adelaide had the Slights, W. and A., E. G. Phillips, J. U. Rundell, W. Knill, G. Craigie, A. M. Pettinger, A. Wilkinson, and W. D. Claxton; South Adelaide's stars were C. G. Godfrey, J. Reedman, J. Turner, J. Musgrove, J. Craigie, and C. Kemp; and the Adelaide Club had fine players in H. Haldane, R. Wigley, J. W. Stow, J. Tardif, L. W. Evan, E. J. Hiscock, and B. V. Scrymgour.

In 1893-94 the Austral and Port Adelaide Clubs were admitted, and for three seasons games were played on the Kensington Oval as well as the Adelaide Oval. It is a thousand pities that so excellent a ground cannot be used regularly for senior club matches. The infusion of



C. CHECKETT,
CURATOR OF THE ADELAIDE OVAL.

promising junior cricketers into the ranks of the seniors revived interest in club matches. Norwood no longer ruled the roost, because the two Giffens had left the club after George as a parting performance had taken all ten wickets and carried his bat through the innings of the same match, a unique feat on the cricket-field. Other clubs now had a chance, and South Adelaide once, and North Adelaide twice, became premiers. Last season the Austral and Port Adelaide amalgamated, and after the most exciting series of matches on record, the Norwood Club, which had rapidly trained excellent juniors, once more filled the old place at the head of the table. Now a new system is in vogue. The old teams have all been broken up, and cricketers have to play for the clubs representing the districts in which they reside.

The only clubs which continued uninterruptedly their connection with the Association from 1871 until the initiation of the electorate system caused their disbandment were Norwood and North Adelaide, and the solitary cricketer who throughout played his part as a senior was Frank King, of Hindmarsh. Now he has retired, and the last link between past and present has been severed. The champions of other days "play the game" from the pavilion—a few in their enthusiasm assist second elevens—and delightedly watch their successors, Lyons, Darling, Jones, Hill, and lesser lights, figuring on the green sward. Perchance they wish

sometimes that they were young themselves again, so that they might step into the breach and prevent those disasters for which South Australian batsmen have become unhappily notorious.

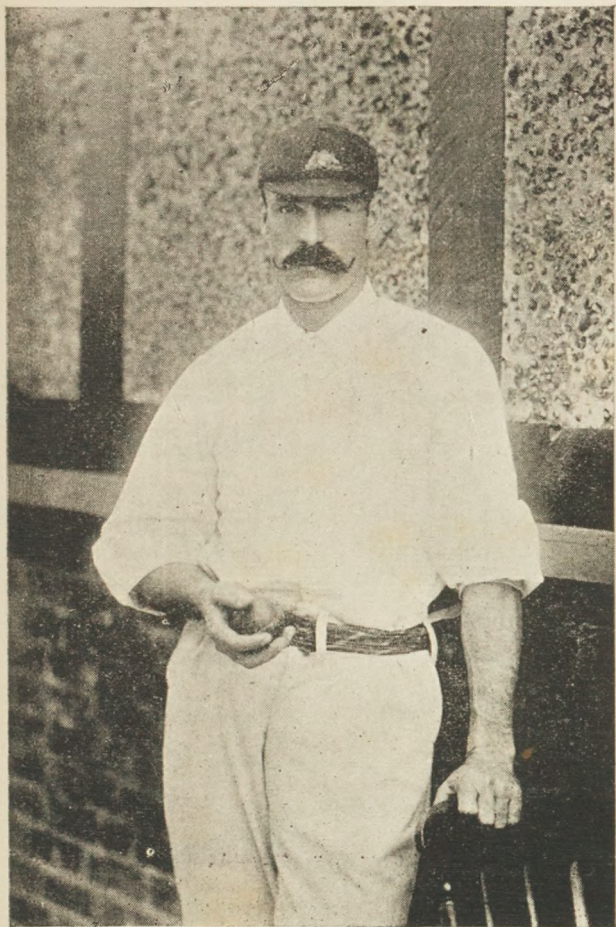
The following tables give the names of the two leading batsmen and bowlers of each year since records have been kept. The letters after the names indicate the clubs for which the cricketers played:—

BATTING.					
	Ins.	Not out.	Runs.	Highest Score.	Avg.
1873-74.					
J. E. Gooden (N.) ...	15	3	179	47*	14·92
1874-75.					
J. Hill (N.A.) ...	14	3	240	50*	21·81
C. J. Chittleboro (H.)	14	4	210	89*	19·1
1875-76.					
J. E. Gooden (N.) ...	13	1	220	39*	18·33
F. King (H.) ...	12	1	186	42	16·92
1876-77.					
W. O. Whitridge (N.)	11	—	273	84	24·81
J. E. Gooden (N.) ...	11	1	202	69	20·2
1877-78.					
F. King (H.) ...	10	4	189	90*	31·5
W. O. Whitridge (N.)	12	3	250	64	27·77
1878-79.					
J. Noel (H.) ...	6	—	201	104	33·5
W. Slight (N.A.) ...	12	2	307	125*	30·7
1879-80.					
A. M. Pettinger (N.A.)	10	2	220	115	27·5
A. H. Jarvis (H.) ...	9	1	211	65	26·37
1880-81.					
W. Slight (N.A.) ...	9	3	224	107*	37·33
J. Noel (H.) ...	11	2	302	119	33·71
1881-82.					
G. Giffen (N.) ...	7	1	384	158	64
J. E. Gooden (N.) ...	9	1	257	56	32·12
1882-83					
J. Hide (K. & S.A.) ...	8	2	279	73*	46·5
A. H. Jarvis (H.) ...	10	1	361	115*	41
1883-84.					
J. Noel (H.) ...	7	1	303	171	50·5
W. Watling (S.A.) ...	7	1	245	107	40·83
1884-85.					
G. Giffen (N.) ...	5	2	476	209*	158·66
A. Slight (N.A.) ...	8	4	227	104*	56·75

1885-86.						
A. H. Jarvis (H.)	...	6	1	386	124	77.2
W. Knill (N.A.)	...	7	0	402	161	57.42
1886-87.						
J. J. Lyons (N.)	...	7	1	397	138	66.16
W. F. Giffen (N.)	...	8	2	311	113	51.83
1887-88.						
R. Wigley (Ad.)	...	8	2	374	110	62.33
J. E. Craigie (S.A.)	...	7	2	249	104*	49.44
1888-89.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	7	1	572	156	95.33
H. L. Haldane (A.I.)	...	8	2	401	115	66.83
1889-90.						
J. J. Lyons (N.)	...	7	1	463	133	77.16
H. Blinman (N.)	...	7	2	256	76	51.2
1890-91.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	6	3	587	296	195.66
J. E. Gooden (N.)	...	4	1	289	147	96.33
1891-92.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	9	0	514	124	57.11
E. J. Hiscock (A.)	...	8	3	245	118*	49
1892-93.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	6	2	576	187	144
J. J. Lyons (N.)	...	7	2	382	187	76.4
1893-94.						
J. E. Gooden (N.)	...	5	2	302	137	100.66
R. H. Dyer (S.A.)	...	7	2	341	159	68.20
1894-95.						
F. Jarvis (H.)	...	4	1	352	169*	117.33
C. Hill (N.A.)	...	5	2	334	217*	111.33
1895-96.						
E. H. Leak (Aus.)	...	6	1	429	139	85.8
T. M. Drew (N.A.)	...	6	1	338	148*	67.60
1896-97.						
C. Hill (N.A.)	...	5	1	454	241	113.50
J. Reedman (S.A.)	...	9	—	502	170	65.77

BOWLING.

		O.	M.	R.	W.	AVG.
1873-74.						
F. King (N.)	...	156.4	—	206	57	3.61
T. N. Cole (N.)	...	164.3	—	280	66	4.24
1874-75.						
A. Scott (N.A.)	...	130.3	43	211	52	4.05
S. Rigaud (Kens.)	...	172.3	59	284	63	4.5
1875-76.						
J. E. Goodfellow (S.A.)	...	123.1	31	225	46	4.89
F. King (H.)	...	125.3	25	247	49	5.44
1876-77.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	68.5	20	1.5	27	3.88
W. O. Whitridge (N.)	...	156.2	47	248	57	4.35
1877-78.						
F. Furnell (Kent)	...	66.2	16	150	28	5.35
W. O. Whitridge (N.)	...	152.3	50	236	45	5.24



E. JONES.

1878-79.						
W. O. Whitridge (N.)	...	95.2	31	155	33	4.69
G. Giffen (N.)	...	147.3	39	285	54	5.27
1880-81.						
J. E. Goodfellow (N.A.)	...	109.2	40	166	26	6.38
J. Bevan (N.A.)	...	148.5	68	190	29	6.55
1881-82.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	155	33	327	40	8.17
J. Bevan (N.A.)	...	272.2	139	308	37	8.03
1882-83.						
J. Quilty (N.)	...	137	23	343	35	9.8
F. King (H.)	...	120.2	44	227	22	10.31
1883-84.						
W. Jones (H.)	...	130.3	39	240	34	7.05
J. Noel (H.)	...	201.5	83	284	33	8.6
1884-85.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	110.5	38	176	23	7.65
J. Quilty (N.)	...	127.3	41	246	28	8.78
1885-86.						
E. G. Phillips (N.A.)	...	161.1	66	251	20	12.55
G. Giffen (N.)	...	176.2	35	471	38	12.39
1886-87.						
J. U. Rundell (N.A.)	...	151.4	59	229	21	10.9
J. J. Lyons (N.)	...	177	42	435	35	12.4
1887-88.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	187.1	36	560	60	9.33
J. Noel (H.)	...	253.3	90	517	42	12.3
1888-89.						
T. Turner (S.A.)	...	176	91	220	27	8.14
G. Giffen (N.)	...	203.5	59	552	52	10.61
1889-90.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	175.3	51	447	44	10.15
F. King (H.)	...	164.2	55	272	25	10.88
1890-91.						
W. Amos (N.A.)	...	150.1	32	512	45	11.37
H. Le Haldane (A.)	...	119.4	44	301	24	12.54
1891-92.						
G. Giffen (N.)	...	216.1	66	532	50	10.64
G. Parkin (S.A.)	...	115.5	36	289	19	15.21
1892-93.						
E. Jones (S.A.)	...	183.1	44	477	33	14.39
G. Giffen (N.)	...	255.1	64	741	44	16.84
1893-94.						
J. Musgrove (S.A.)	...	53.1	17	122	15	8.13
E. Jones (S.A.)	...	173.2	71	345	33	10.45
1894-95.						
E. Jones (S.A.)	...	130	54	223	21	10.51
C. W. Winnall (A.)	...	67	23	286	12	15.5
1895-96.						
G. Giffen (A.)	...	156	54	326	24	13.58
J. Travers (Austral)	...	186.2	35	481	29	16.51
1896-97.						
E. Jones (S.A.)	...	86.3	26	220	21	10.47
A. E. H. Evans (N.)	...	109.5	21	296	25	11.84

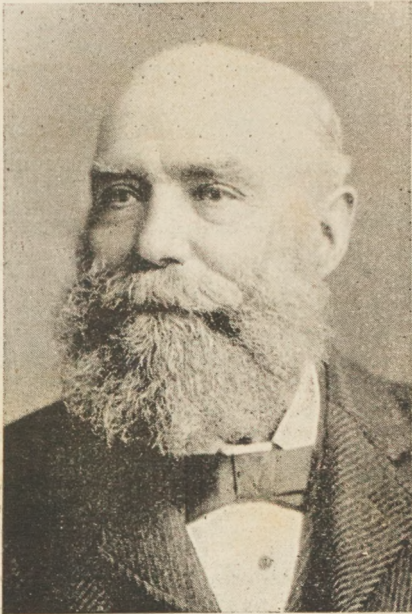
CHAPTER X.

THE GAME IN THE COUNTRY.

The First Country Club — A Remarkable Bowling Incident — Primitive Cricket Material—A Free Fight—The Southern Association — Old Southern Clubs — A Strong Team — Cricket at Gawler — An Objector to Conviviality — An Umpiring Incident—The Birthplace of Jack Lyons—The Old Clare Team—The Alma Club—The First Country Association—Prominent Country Players—North v. South—A Keen Observer's Views on Country Cricket.

Although public interest in South Australian cricket has been entirely devoted to the game in the city, the development of the pastime in the country districts has not been devoid of interest. There can, I think, be little doubt that the first country cricket club was formed at Morphett Vale some time in the forties. Mr. James Chittleborough tells me he began his cricket there in 1847, when there were only three clubs in the colony—Adelaide, Kent and Sussex, and Morphett Vale. He adds—“We had a pretty good club, which was well supported. How much play did we get? Well, I suppose, we practised twice a week, and most of the players were pretty keen, too, for some of them had to come considerable distances to play. The only matches we had were when the Adelaides came to Morphett Vale or we coached it to the city. We always played for

a supper. I remember one match well. It was played on the flat alongside the Lord Melbourne Hotel in North Adelaide. We went in first, and



JAS. CHITTLEBOROUGH.

were all put out for 11, of which I, the youngest member of the team, made 9. Of course we lost the game, and had to pay for the supper. The first match was,

however, finished so early that another was played for the 'trimmings,' that is the drinks, and so on. We won this time. Isn't cricket a funny game? We had some pretty good players at Morphett Vale, for instance, Locksley, Peck, Tidy, the McLeods, and Jack Dungey. Peck was a good swift bowler. He used to make very good bats of locally grown willow. The greatest difficulty he had was to get the faces of the bats sufficiently hard, though he used to season them well and pass a heavy roller over them. I recollect a curious incident when one of the McLeods was bowling against the Adelaide Club at Morphett Vale. Rain fell nearly all day, and the pitch became very muddy owing to the men running across it. Well, McLeod bowled a lob ball, which pitched in a hole made by some one's heel, and there it stopped. The batsman asked the umpire if he might run out of his crease to hit it, but before he could do so one of the fieldsmen had thrown the ball back to the bowler."

What may be termed one of the oldest country cricket districts is Aldinga, where the game was played so early as 1854. J. G. Grant, an ex-Indian officer, started the club. A correspondent tells me "the tools used were of a very primitive character. The bats and stumps were made locally of sheoak wood, and the bats were, of course, all in one piece without any spring. The balls were knitted with string, and Mrs. Humphreys, who knitted them, still

resides in the district. Willunga had a club shortly after Aldinga. The players of the two villages used to meet, and keen rivalry would be evinced. They were not always able to get eleven a side, so single-wicket matches were sometimes played. It is recorded that on one occasion Grant was out for a ducksegg, and the Willungas chaffed him so much about it—because, having learnt his cricket in England, he was wont to pride himself upon his superior knowledge of the game—that he challenged the whole of their team to play him single-handed, he to have the same number in the field as they would have. The challenge was accepted, and Grant actually won. In 1856 the late Dr. Knipe secured regulation cricket material from England, and for many years exciting games were played between Aldinga and Willunga. Many of these are fresh in the memory of some of the old residents. One lady said she used to go to all the games she could attend. On one occasion more mead was consumed than was good for the excited players, and the consequence was a free fight with bitter feeling, which led to the contests between Aldinga and Willunga being abandoned for some time. City teams would occasionally come out to play, and once amid much local rejoicing the visitors were dismissed for 11 runs. In 1876 the Goode Brothers revived the Aldinga Club, and the game has flourished ever since. In 1889 the Southern Association was formed, and has been the means of

stimulating cricket in the district. The players are very enthusiastic, as may be understood when it is stated that some of them have to travel fifteen or sixteen miles to play. There are six clubs in the Association. Each has its reserved ground, and that at Aldinga is a specially creditable one. It has cost £120, and is entirely free from debt."

Morphett Vale and Aldinga were the pioneers of cricket south of Adelaide, but there are many other old clubs. For instance, the game has been played more or less regularly at Mount Gambier since 1861, Clarendon 1865, Kangarilla 1870, Strathalbyn 1872, Milang 1872, Noarlunga 1872, Coromandel Valley 1873, Millicent 1873, Narracoorte 1874, Stirling East 1874, and in the Mount Barker district for over thirty years. Now almost every township has its club. Some capital players have flourished in the South and South-East. There have been the Perrys, the Jameses, the Sibleys, the McRaes, Dr. M. Jay, the Colmans, A. von Doussa, S. and H. Cope, H. A. Howison, H. O. Hopkins, F. Ninham, T. S. O'Halloran, W. R. Jones, W. Nicholls, Harry Hewitt, T. Noye, B. McCaffrey, Shipway, T. Rogers, Harben, Ottaway, and many others, while last, but not least, should be mentioned Arthur Carracher, whose success in the Country week led to a trial in intercolonials.

Mount Barker has for many years had one of the strongest clubs south of the city. A correspondent who has seen a

great deal of country cricket, and who is an excellent judge of the game, writes : —“In 1882-83 Mount Barker had one of the best combinations ever collected in a country team. Led by Alf. von Doussa — who, by-the-way, was very smart at slip—were such players as Sid and Harry Cope, H. O. Hopkins, T. S. O'Halloran, G. Milne, 'Daddy' Howison, Jim Ramsay, an English player named King, who was a great field at silly-point, and half a dozen others who were very keen on the game. I remember one game they played against fifteen of Strathalbyn, whom they sent to the rightabout for 9 runs. Then Sid Cope, going in first, wagered that he would score from the first ball, and he did it.”

The township of Gawler was amongst the pioneers of the game north of Adelaide, and has always sustained cricketers of high quality. Here early in the sixties Mr. George Harker, who had had the cricket instinct well developed in the old country, started a club. The only bats they had were two damaged warriors which he had brought out with him, and which by splicing he put into fair aggressive condition. Shortly afterwards the Barossa Club was started by the late Hon. W. Duffield, Ross Reid, Richard Reid, H. E. Bright, sen. (who has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the noble game), F. F. Turner (the present Registrar-General), and others. The two clubs soon amalgamated, but died shortly afterwards. In 1866 a club was revived by a match married v. single, in

connection with which it was resolved that "the losers should pay for a supper for twenty-six persons, to be jointly partaken." Since then Gawler has never been without one or more strong clubs and has turned out many fine players. W. Churchman, T. R. Bright (who afterwards developed his powers at Clare), H. E. Bright, jun., J. Manson, J. W. Peryman, W. T. Woods (a big hitter), and G. Palmer (who once carried his bat through the innings and made 50 against the Eastern Suburbans) were cracks of the early days. At Gawler, as in the city in those days, conviviality was an inevitable accompaniment to matches, and so pronounced was it that at one meeting of the club in 1867 a letter was received from one of the members withdrawing his membership, "principally on the ground that the members of the club are not teetotallers, which fact also conduces to the use of bad grammar amongst them." The Gawler Club became so strong about this time that they defeated the Norwoods, who were regarded as the strongest team in the colony. Peryman was the champion bowler of the district, and in 1874 was chosen to play in the twenty-two who were opposed to Grace's team at Kadina.

An incident worth recording took place at Gawler in 1869. The Gawlers and Nuriootpas were playing, and Mr. H. E. Bright, M.P., was umpiring. In this match the Nuriootpa adjudicator gave a Gawler player out stumped, and

Mr. Bright, who did not think the decision was just, threatened to leave the field, but the Nuriootpaite left instead. His position was filled by the then Editor of the Gawler *Bunyip*, a gentleman who is now a leader-writer on the staff of a powerful Melbourne daily. The new umpire soon got into trouble. Peryman, in running, dropped his bat a yard or two from his crease, and sliding along it knocked his wicket over. "How's that?" Mr. ——"Out." Peryman — "What for?" Umpire—"Hit wicket." Peryman—"It's not out, and I won't go out." And he didn't. The match thus ended abruptly.

A later stage in Gawler cricket was the Joe Tardif and Dan Devine period. Devine in the first match in which he played secured 15 wickets for 18 runs. Tardif afterwards figured prominently in Adelaide and intercolonial cricket. The 1880 Australian Eleven honoured Gawler with a visit, and of course had all the best of the game against the twenty-two of the district, for whom Churchman was the only double-figure scorer. Early in the eighties R. Burton, J. A. Thomson, H. Bischof, and E. H. Coombe began to take a prominent part in Gawler cricket, and later on J. J. Thomson, E. J. Hiscock, A. Ross, A. Thomson, and C. Bischof came forward. In 1888-89 the present Gawler Association was formed, and since then the Colonial Athens has had the strongest lot of cricketers any town out of the city could place in the field. In the first year of

the Association Gawler cricket was probably as strong as ever it was. The combined team which contained such men as Fred Leak, E. H. Coombe, H. Bischof, A. Ross, Burton, Crump, R. K. and J. J. Thomson, Miller, Ifould, and Moss carried all before them. They actually defeated the Norwoods, with the two Giffens and Lyons, by 270 to 103.

The advent of asphalt pitches in the season of 1885-86 caused both batting and bowling averages to attain altitudes never before reached. In that season the Juniors distinguished themselves by scoring 382 for 2 wickets in three and a half hours, E. J. Hiscock and G. H. Simpson notching 291 for the first wicket. The local record is 477, made by the Gawlers in 1891 against the Unions. In 1893-94 Stoddart's team played a two days' match at Gawler against a local eighteen. The visitors notched 418 and the eighteen 153 and 22 for 5 wickets. E. H. Coombe was the top scorer for the latter with 46.

Reviewing the individual performances in Gawler cricket for the last fifteen years, there are three names which stand out more prominently than the rest—those of R. Burton, H. Bischof, and E. H. Coombe. Burton, now of Redhill, won a cup presented by Mr. H. E. Bright for the highest batting average for the Gawlers in 1882-83, 1883-84, and 1887-88. He was also top in 1889-90 and 1891-92. He was the star wicketkeeper of the town, and bowled with considerable success.

Hermann Bischof has been identified with senior Gawler cricket for sixteen years, and has performed brilliantly all round. Many a time he has saved a match by his deadly bowling or by his superb batting, for he combines rare punishing power with stubborn defence. If he had elected to come to Adelaide, as he might have done, he would probably have taken a high place in first-class records. In the last three seasons he has topped the Onetree Hill averages with 85·1, 30·3, and 50·5 respectively. He is also the holder of the highest individual score record. J. J. Thomson took the record to 167 on March 2, 1889, and H. Bischof to 168 on January 14, 1893. On January 16, 1897, the same batsman increased it to 179. E. H. Coombe has been a performer in senior Gawler cricket for eighteen years, and ten times during the last thirteen has headed the batting averages for his club. He has made more centuries, totalled more runs, and bowled more wickets than any other Gawler cricketer. In 1885-86 he captured no fewer than 152 wickets for 8 runs a wicket. In November, 1880, he annexed 5 wickets for no runs; and in September, 1890, 8 wickets for no runs. Last season he scored 902 in all matches, and had an average of 64·6. In 1887-88 he came to Adelaide on Saturday afternoons, and played for the South Adelaide on the Oval. He was so successful that he secured a place in the inter-colonial team that year and annexed second batting average for his club, viz.,

35·4. As the Gawler Association started in the next season he sacrificed any advantages or prospects he might have had through continuing to play on the Oval and devoted his energies entirely to developing local cricket. The late E. J. Hiscock also figured conspicuously at Gawler before he came to the city and threw in his lot with the Adelaides. He put up the aggregate of 1,002 in 1885-86 with the Unions, and this is still a Gawler record. And last, but not least, Jack Lyons was born at Gawler! Little wonder that he developed into a world-renowned cricketer, when he lived in such an atmosphere in his infant days!

Prettily situated Clare has for a great many years been a great cricket centre, but the palmiest days of the game there were towards the end of the seventies. A gentleman to whom I have already referred, writes:—"I always place the Clare team of that time top in the list of country clubs I have known, and I think I have seen all the best. T. R. Bright, who is now in Adelaide, was at the helm, and was, in my opinion, one of the best skippers, if not the best, a country club has had. Centuries were not unknown to him. He was the first player I saw cut with a horizontal bat, and he did it so sweetly, too. The method with most players until that time was to allow the ball to glance from the bat into the slips, or at most to give it a gentle push to the off. Following T. R. B. were such fine players as Gus Harder, Grant, and Bishop as batsmen, while the bowlers were Leslie

Mortimer, the Rev. R. Mitchell, Bob Davies, and a perfect Jonah in Dick Macfarlane. Leslie Mortimer was a left-arm bowler, medium to slow, with a marvellous leg-break which fairly paralysed his opponents. Then the Rev. R. Mitchell, fast, with a high delivery, was very accurate. The Clares were indeed terrors in those days. A laughable incident once came under my notice there. Just before a match commenced some of the players were indulging in a hit, and a skier was coming down amongst a knot of spectators, one of whom whipped off his hat, a strong felt, and held it firmly 'carpet-bag fashion,' to catch the falling ball. I can see his face to this day as the ball fell plump into the receptacle and passed through carrying the crown with it. Unfortunately the snapshot man was not on hand."

Towards the close of the season 1879-80 the Clare team, having conquered every Northern club that had faced them on their own ground, boldly invaded the city, and with one man given in played Kensington and North Adelaide, senior clubs. They had the best of a draw with Kensington, and with 3 wickets to spare defeated North Adelaide, the premier city club, who, moreover, had the assistance of Jesse Hide. I well recollect Harder's brilliant 58 not out against the Norths. It included ten boundary hits, half of them off Jimmy Goodfellow, then one of the best bowlers in the city. Bright

batted splendidly in each match, and Mortimer and Mitchell bowled in great style. An eleven of Port Adelaide defeated the countrymen, who having vanquished the crack city club possibly took things rather easily. On their way home the visitors stayed at Gawler to finally settle the question of northern supremacy. They batted so poorly in their first innings that they were all out for 31, and there was considerable excitement in Gawler at the prospect of the rivals being defeated. But Macfarlane and Mortimer bowled so irresistibly and Bright batted with such steadiness in the second innings that Clare won by 46 runs. Cricket is not nowadays so strong in the district as it was then, though until the eighties were well advanced the team was invincible.

Another very strong country club that flourished from ten to twenty years ago was the Alma, whose tremendous scoring caused the team to be talked about throughout the length and breadth of the colony. They had in John Good one of the finest batsmen the country has produced. Century after century came from his bat, and once when the Almas came to Adelaide he scored three in successive innings within one week. He batted very well for the Kensington Club, and once with Tom O'Halloran, of Mount Barker, was chosen to play for the colony's fifteen against an English Eleven. Neither, however, was successful. S. Eyre, J. H. Good, G. Toseland, T.

Willcocks, and J. P. Dyer were other prominent Alma players, and, distinguished even as John Good himself was, Harry Dyer was even more successful. He subsequently settled in the city, and not only notched centuries for South Adelaide in senior matches, but made 102 for the colony against Victoria, and at Sydney three years ago scored 70 against McKibbin, who conquered all the more experienced South Australians. The Alma district should be proud of having raised two batsmen of the calibre of John Good and Harry Dyer, men who with sound training when they were young would have made great batsmen.

Country Associations have done a great deal of good for the game. I believe I am correct in saying the Northern Areas Association was the first formed out of Adelaide, and it was established about 1882 or 1883. It consisted of teams from Jamestown, Gladstone, Laura, Yongala, Georgetown, and Caltowie. A combined team from this Association defeated the hitherto invincible Clare Club. Some of the top-sawyers in the townships mentioned were S. E. Evans, J. J. A. Clarke, A. J. S. Fry, C. Mann, C. E. Kerr, F. P. Everett, and J. Tardif.

A powerful Association formed in 1887-9 was that known as the "Barossa and Light." Kapunda, Angaston, Truro, Tanunda, and Nuriootpa had strong teams, and many a tall score was made. Once Truro compiled 507 against Tanunda. Prominent players were the brothers Sam and Seaforth Plush (the

former was a remarkably brilliant batsman and a fine bowler), Bennett, Atkinson, Pellew, Lunn, Adams, Plush, J. Thompson, A. Fergusson, A. E. Weeks, T. Hurn, the Tucker brothers, A. E. H. Evans, and L. Robertson.

Many other strong country clubs did and do exist, but unfortunately I have been unable to obtain from the local Secretaries information about them. Amongst others, however, who have figured prominently are J. C. Noack and Fred Leak, who as public-school teachers have moved about considerably; J. Drew, of the Burra; Ogilvy, of Port Pirie; the Caust brothers, of Chain of Ponds; Stephens, Muir, Gill, and Hancock, of Port Augusta; Monfries, of Gumeracha; and John Donnell Trembath, of the Peninsula. Yorke's Peninsula is entitled to special mention as having been the district which first brought an English Eleven to the colony. The game has always flourished amongst the large population at Wallaroo, Moonta, and Kadina, and many capital players have been produced. Nearly twenty years ago the Kadina Association two or three times had sufficient enterprise to send eighteen players to the city, where, of course, they were easily defeated by the more experienced cricketers.

A sketch of country cricket would not be quite complete without some reference to the games which have been played on the Adelaide Oval between North and South, and to the country weeks arranged by the South Australian Cricketing Asso-

ciation. The gentlemen who have taken prominent parts in arranging these matches are J. Rundle, S. E. Evans, E. H. Coombe, and W. O. Whitridge. Several interesting contests have taken place, and though it was deemed advisable not to have a country week during the present season, owing to the presence of the Englishmen, no doubt it will be revived next Christmas. Already these "weeks" have introduced to the notice of the city cricket authorities A. E. H. Evans and A. Carracher, who have done fairly well as bowlers in intercolonial matches, though unfortunately Carracher has been unable to resist the attractions of the free, fresh country atmosphere, and has left the city. Evans for the North against the South scored 267 in 1895. There must be some fine native talent amongst country players, and these country weeks give them opportunities to distinguish themselves.

It must not be forgotten that country cricketers have not the same opportunities as their city cousins for developing their talents. Population is more scattered, especially in the farming districts, and facilities for the practice which makes perfect are thus minimised. Then, too, long distances have to be travelled to play matches, so that the enthusiasm of the players is oftentimes severely taxed. One of my correspondents, who is a very close observer, has penned me some interesting observations on country cricket in general, and I cannot do better than conclude this brief sketch of cricket outside the city by giving them. He writes:—"Like the pas-

toralist, the country cricketer has no fixity of tenure, and where to-day a strong team exists, a couple of years hence only fragments may be found. At most places wickets of cement, asphalt, or slate are to be found, touching which, having played on all, I should like to make a few remarks. Cement and slate are too hard, especially the latter, as the best length bowling rises over the stumps, and I have had more knocks on the knuckles in a dozen games on slate than in twenty years on all other wickets. A slow bowler on it will very rarely hit the stumps. Asphalt is undoubtedly the best, especially on a hot day, as then the ball comes along very true, but cold bleak weather makes it as hard as a flint, and then look out for knuckles. Some day I hope to put down a wicket of asphalt, with the top two inches of hardwood sawdust instead of stone chips and sand. Then I believe we shall be able to cry 'Eureka!' Taking the fifteen years from 1875 to 1890, the best dozen all-round country players I have known were T. T. Lucas, Laura; T. R. Bright, Clare; Harben, Milang; Sid Cope, Mount Barker; Tom Hurn and W. Tucker, Angaston; A. J. S. Fry, Eudunda; J. Good, Alma; E. H. Coombe and R. Burton, Gawler; W. C. Bennett, Truro; and Sam Plush, of Nuriootpa. Of course there may have been fifty players equally good with the foregoing, but I am speaking of these from a personal knowledge of them. Making due allowance for the improve-

ment in wickets, I do not think the country bowlers at the present time are a bit better than those of from ten to fifteen years ago; and as for fielding, while there are some bright exceptions, taking it on the whole it is not so good."



*H.
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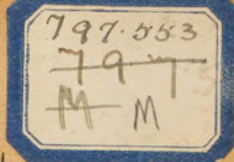
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