

a rot set in, 4 wickets falling in quick succession, and the score stood at 95 for the loss of six wickets. Things looked very black for Auckland, but N. B. Lusk came to the rescue, and put a totally different complexion on the game. Forcing the pace in great style, and aided by a little luck at the start, he scored rapidly, and was not disposed of until his total had reached 85. None of the other batsmen did anything much to swell the total, which at the close of the innings amounted to 210 runs.

Canterbury started their first innings well, and after Wigley had been disposed of for 19, Simms and Ollivier became associated, and a fine stand resulted, the former obtaining 40 runs and the latter 49. The next pair, Barry and Callaway also made a fair stand, Barry playing carefully for 28, whilst the ex-Sydney player hit out freely for 20. Reese failed to score, but Harman and Wilding were both successful, the former obtaining 53 by free cricket, and Wilding rattled up 28 in pleasing style. Cant was the only other batsman to trouble the bowlers, and by clean hitting he got 32 (not out), and the innings closed for 390. Auckland's fielding was very much off, and some correspondents state that had the catching been at all up to the mark, the Canterbury score would not have reached 150 runs. It cannot be said that Auckland's second display was particularly brilliant, the total reaching 163, and with the exception of D. Hay (60), and H. Lusk (42), none of the batsmen did anything of note. The former batted in splendid style for his runs, executing nice strokes all round the wicket, whilst Lusk got his runs by free and attractive cricket. Of the others N. Lusk (17) did the best, and he very foolishly ran himself out just when well set. Stenson and Resteaux were also run out, and what object these players had in view when attempting to steal runs when there was nothing to gain by forcing the game, is difficult to understand. Canterbury went in for their second innings, requiring 84 runs to win, and they obtained the necessary number for the loss of four wickets, Ollivier being the largest contributor with 26. Stephens bowled exceptionally well in this innings, capturing the four wickets that fell and had he received proper support from the field, he would have done even better.

AUCKLAND.—First Innings. Hay, hit wkt, b Robertson 27; Stenson, b Callaway 13; Ohson, by Rollaway 13; Marshall, b Callaway 7; Elliott, c Boxshall, b Callaway 4; H. B. Lusk, c Harman, b Robertson 4; MacCormick, lbw, b Robertson 21; N. B. Lusk, b Callaway 85; Mills, c Boxshall, b Callaway 4; Stephens, at Borshall, b Robertson 9; Resteaux, not out 9; Extras 23; Total 210.

CANTERBURY.—First Innings. Wigley, lbw, b Stephens 10; Simms, c Hay, b Stenson 40; Ollivier, c N. B. Lusk, b Resteaux 49; Barry, c N. B. Lusk, b Stenson 23; Callaway, b Stephens 20; Reese, b Stephens 0; Harman, b Stephens 20; Wilding, lbw, b W. Mills 53; Cant, not out 32; Boxshall, c and b Stephens 10; Robinson, b Stenson 8; Extras 22; Total 250.

AUCKLAND.—Second Innings. Hay, b Simms 60; Elliott, b Callaway 23; Stenson, run out 13; H. B. Lusk, b Barry 42; MacCormick, b Barry 0; N. B. Lusk, run out 17; Ohson, b Wilding 13; Marshall, c Borshall, b Callaway 13; Stephens, b Wilding 15; Mills, not out 0; Resteaux, run out 9; Extras 6; Total 163.

CANTERBURY.—Second Innings. Wigley, b Stephens 15; Ollivier, b Stephens 26; Cant, st N. Lusk, b Stephens 3; Simms, not out 16; Harman, b Stephens 12; Callaway, not out 25; Total for four wickets 85.

NOTES ON THE GAME. (By Telegraph—Own Correspondent.) On Wednesday the Auckland team arrived in Christchurch, and notwithstanding their recent defeat were all confident

of making a good show on a hard wicket. Since I arrived here I have heard the Otago ground spoken of as a treacle and sawdust wicket, and really this very well describes the state of affairs. We started on Monday and Tuesday last. Unfortunately the Mills was unable to play to-day. His hands have not yet recovered from the severe treatment they received in Dunedin; with rest he will, however, be fit again by the time we reach Wellington. We started today at 10 o'clock. Having won the toss, we took the wicket on a pitch which, though not quite as hard as the fine weather had led us to expect, was, at the same time, thoroughly true and reliable. I only saw one ball kick during the whole of our innings. Our score of 110, under these circumstances, was such a feat as one for the strong batting we are supposed to possess, and should to-morrow be a fine day and the conditions unaltered I should not be surprised to see some tall scoring. N. B. Lusk, of course, was the lion of the day. His 85 came at a time when runs were badly wanted, and were being made in such a manner as to be simply atrocious. H. B. Lusk was the chief offender, missing both Sims and Ollivier off easy catches in the slips. These misses cost us nearly 80 runs; altogether some 7 catches were missed. W. Mills even missing an easy return from Sims on his own bowling. Stevens showed decidedly better form than at Dunedin, and troubled the Christchurch bats not a little, whilst Resteaux was also a little nearer the mark and should have got a couple more wickets early in the innings. Our ground fielding was fair, but Lusk, behind the stumps, I suppose on account of his previous exertions, was not quite himself, and missed a couple of chances to stump. The weather to-night is beautiful, and everything points to an even better wicket to-morrow. At 8 p.m. Canterbury opened with Sims and Wigley, both of whom played very careful cricket. After compiling ten Wigley was given out lbw. Stephens, who was bowling in great form, and often made a couple of difficult catches. Sims and Ollivier made good stand, though both of them were badly missed in the slips by H. B. Lusk, while the former should have been stumped off Stephens early in his innings and caught by W. Mills off his own bowling. Callaway snuck up 30 in quick time when he was clean bowled by Stephens with a beautiful off-break. Barry played steadily for his quota and was not out when stumps were drawn for the day.

Shortly after ten on Saturday morning the match was resumed, with the weather and pitch all that could possibly be desired. The latter was not as fast as we expected, but attracted, and those who did not make runs had some grumble at on that ground. The general prediction was that the match would be a draw, which, of course, it should have been. The Aucklanders' fielding was simply atrocious. On Friday we missed no less than seven catches, and on Saturday there were as many more. It is not too much to say that the match in two had been taken. Canterbury's score would have been a little over the 100. Every man on their side who scored at all was missed early in his innings. Sims had as many as 4 chances, one, perhaps the easiest of the lot, when he had made but two. All their top scorers started streakily. We sadly missed our veteran, Bob Nellie, and had he been with us I verily believe we would have won both our matches, especially in Otago, where he would have played havoc with our opponents. Our bowlers in the last match were well up to the mark, and backed by a good field and wicketkeeper, would have surprised our sceptical friends at home. Stephens' average in the two innings reads well as 11.5, and Resteaux had no less than 35 chances missed off his bowling, whilst Stenson kept a consistently good length and also suffered severely from bad fielding. Young MacCormick and Elliott surprised most of our team by their sure stopping and returning. These two, it may be remembered, were supposed to be slow fields. W. Mills and Marshall also did a great deal of useful work, but as for the rest, the more the better. Missing catches seemed to be the order of the day. Canterbury's remaining batsmen made things merry this morning, but, apart from some good driving by Callaway, there was little to attract attention. Coming to Auckland's second innings, the chief stand was made by D. Hay and H. B. Lusk, when 30 runs were put on for the third wicket. Lusk batted carefully, but freely, and was dismissed with a clinker from Barry. One of those balls which are supposed to have a little off work on them, but which, striking something on the wickets, comes across from the leg to the off stump like lightning. Evan MacCormick, who followed, was unfortunate in getting an equally good ball early in his innings. Though he was only at the wicket a short time in the first innings his batting creat-

ed much favourable comment, and many old admirers of correct style expressed genuine regret at his misfortune. Hay, who ultimately hit the ball on to his wickets trying to pull one of Stenar balls which kept very low, played a chanceless innings, but at the same time not altogether an attractive one. Finding that he was not in very good scoring form, he contented himself with keeping his wicket up and letting the runs come. It is very sad to have to record the fact that two of our best bats, Stenson and Newell Lusk, were run out. In each case it was just touch and go, and a little more confidence in the striker who called would have avoided that hesitation which ended fatally for both. It was especially hard in the case of Newell Lusk, who had scored 17 and was well set. With almost two hours at their disposal to make 88 runs our opponents took the wickets. Our defeat was now almost a certainty, and we did well on the wicket to get four of them out before they scored the requisite number of runs. Stephens deserves a special word of praise for his good bowling under such disheartening circumstances. He continually beat their good bats, and could he but acquire a better length we would have no doubt in classing him as the most dangerous bowler we have seen. Both in batting and fielding we greatly felt the loss of the Mills.

The following para from the "Bulletin" anent the recent New South Wales-South Australia match are interesting:—

Clem Hill and Walkley (his first "inter-State") lowered the world's record for a ninth-wicket partnership. Between them they scored 234 before Marsh got Walkley's wicket. Prior best was accomplished in 1896 by W. G. Grace and P. Kitkat of Gloucester against Sussex. Worth mentioning that this is the second time in the present season a man selected to fill the place of a bowler has "come off" with emphasis. Matthews, against Victoria last month, was the previous case. Walkley filled the breach left by Jones. No S.A. team ever previously made 575, but last year on the same ground N.S.W. totalled 807.

Clem Hill's record (385 not out) in recent S.A.-N.S.W. match would have fitted the last day of the year well. Previously Murdoch's 321 against Victoria was the best score hit up in Australia. The big score included an 8 (4 of which were for an overthrow), a 5 and 34 fours. Up to this 206 (against N.S.W.) and 360 (retired), Prince Alfred V. St. Peter's College, had stood to Hill's credit. His big compilation ranks next to the world's best (A. C. McLaren's 424 for Lancaster against Somerset in '95), which might have been squelched had there been anyone to stay in with the great bat. Hill has already compiled over 3000 runs for S.A., every innings save one being against England, N.S.W., or Victoria. His average up to the time it was made up was no less than 64.18. Hill has made centuries or over in inter-State and inter-national matches 17 times.

Not even George Giffen, in the days when he practically was South Australia, ever dominated an innings of his side more remarkably than Hill in the late match. Reedman, the old reliable, with 71, and Walkley, an absolute novice, with 53, each helped him to a partnership of over 200. "Sundries" came a very close fourth, and no one else made more than 12 out of a total of nearly 600!

N.S.W. badly wanted a slow bowler of the McKibbin type in Adelaide. The bowling was all from medium to fast, and the faster it came the more certainly Hill scored off it. His only chance given was off Noble, and once or twice only he seemed a little uneasy to Howell. Also the formidable list of extras was due partly to Kelly's standing close up for Marsh's bowling at first, and partly to erratic fast ones that were either actually wider, or at anyrate out of any wicketkeeper's reasonable reach.

One particularly smart Hebrew in Adelaide fell in badly through laying 5 to 1 repeatedly on N.S.W. for the recent local match. On paper it was a good wager, with Darling, Lyons, and Jones away, and Giffen out of form. Only Hill to reckon with, apparently, and no bowling to talk about. But Hill was missed at 19, Travers and Reedman bowled a bit above themselves, Noble had a strain, and the good thing "came undone."

Now that Geo. Giffen seems to have lost his bowling, it is worth recalling that from 1884 to 1892 he had a batting and bowling record against Victoria which has never been equalled. In these eight years he made 1100 runs for 13 innings, averaging 84, and bowl-

ed 102 wickets for 1300 runs, averaging 13 per wicket. W. G. Grace, Giffen's only rival as an all-round player, never did quite so well. S.A. was not playing N.S.W. during most of this time, as the matches between those States only began in '90.

Cricket runs in families. A younger brother of Clem Hill recently made 57 in a college match on Adelaide Oval. Already three other brothers of the great left hander are in club cricket. John Hill, father of this quintette, made the first century recorded on Adelaide Oval.

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