

CRICKET.

A WORLD-FAMOUS BATSMAN.

During the week a great match has been played in Sydney between the New South Wales Eleven and the Rest of Australia. It was for the benefit of S. E. Gregory, one of the most famous cricketers who ever fielded a ball. The name of Gregory has long been identified with Australian cricket (says the "Town and Country Journal.") Syd. Gregory's father and three uncles were great players many years ago. His uncle Dave captained the first Australian team in England in 1878. Syd. himself has been identified with N.S.W. cricket for close on 20 years, although he was only born in 1870. Were he in another State, he would certainly still find a place in the Sheffield Shield or first-class contests. He is this season batting as well as ever, and fielding in excellent style, and yet he cannot secure inclusion in the N.S.W. team. His name has always been before the public. Some times discussions have taken place regarding his selection, but in nearly every instance he silenced the pavilion critics by making a big score, and often at a time when his side was in need of runs. As an example, one can quote the last test match played at Adelaide. In the second innings, the Australians were in which was regarded as a losing position, but Syd. Gregory made 112 out of a total of 351, and in the end his side won by 216 runs. He owed his selection in the Australian Eleven on that occasion to fine fielding, and a score of 152 against South Australia on the same ground a few weeks before. But for that 152 Syd. would have probably been left out of the Australian side, because there was a general expression of opinion against his being in the New South Wales team.

Business worries have beyond all doubt affected Gregory's form on more than one occasion. He seemed doomed, and there are few who would have done as well as "the midget" under similar circumstances. During one trip to England he was playing at his very best in the earlier matches. Then quite suddenly there was a tremendous falling off in his scoring. To only a few was the cause known. It was a big loss in his business through no fault of his own except over-confidence. Gregory has had, in the opinion of some, many of the rich plums in Australian cricket, but those "behind the scenes" know that the game has cost him dear.

Gregory first played as a junior on Moore Park, and it was his magnificent fielding that attracted attention. In fact it was his work in the field that gained for him his first trip to England. That was in 1890. His form as a batsman was not much, 60 innings (15 not out) being only worth 568 runs. He was, however, regarded as being one of the best cover-points—in fact many critics, among them that great one, C. B. Fry, are of opinion that he has no superior in that position. Three years later Gregory was again in England, and this time he did better as a batsman, securing an average of 23.45 for 55 innings (4 not out). It was, however, in the following year that he placed his name on the list of Australia's great batsmen. Playing in the first test match at Sydney against Stoddart's first team, Gregory scored 201 in 204 minutes, and so delighted were the spectators that a collection was made in the pavilion, and over £100 received for the batsman. The score was the highest made in matches between England and Australia, and it was not beaten until R. E. Foster got his 287 at Sydney in December, 1903, or exactly nine years later. Gregory, however, holds one record that may never be beaten. It is the number of times he has played for Australia again England, and the innings he has had. The figures are 41 and 73 respectively.

Altogether Gregory has been six times to England, where his most successful season was in 1896. His average was then 31.82, the highest of the tour, for 48 innings (2 not out), while in that year he also made his highest score on English wickets—154.

On Australian wickets Gregory has been more successful. For New South Wales against Victoria he has played 47 innings (2 not out) for 1383 runs, or an average of 30.73, and against South Australia 30 innings (2 not out), for 1508 runs, or an average of 44.35. He has, therefore, since he first played for New South Wales in

as far as he could, and Wright responded with a toucher, which was not displaced. Wright led off with a good bowl in a short end, but with his last bowl Slatter made a pretty shot, fairly strong, and netted three. Wright now took command of the game, and in a series of short ends scored 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, his total then being nine to Slatter's six. At the 10th end, which was a short one, both players were weak, and Slatter was one, afterwards drawing another with his last. Slatter put the jack the extreme length, and placed two fine shots, one on each side of the jack. Wright cleverly carried the jack into the ditch, and scored his "toucher." Wright adopted his usual tactics, and lay three likely bowls, but Slatter secured the "actual" with his fourth bowl. Although the next was a long end, Wright scored a point, and his score was 11, Slatter 9. Wright started with an adjacent shot, but Slatter, by a nice bit of play, secured three. This gave Slatter a lead of one. Slatter again lengthened the jack, and, out of wide play, scored a couple. Slatter scored a point, getting right on the jack, which Wright could not shift. In the 17th end Slatter had all the best of the play. In fact, about this stage Wright went somewhat off his game. Slatter, on the other hand, played with precision, and the end resulted in a trio for Slatter. In the 18th end, which was long, and wide played by both, Slatter scored a single. The totals now were: Slatter 19, Wright 11. In the 19th Wright opened with a "toucher," and, drawing another, scored a brace. Wright went for a short end, but the length was challenged, and the umpire, Mr. C. Wood, was called. It was found to be just under the 60ft necessary, and Slatter threw the jack about a three-quarter length. It proved a wide end, out of which Slatter scored a couple, making him game by 21 to 13.

INTER-CLUB MATCHES.

In a three-rink contest between Waitemata and Richmond, the former brought off a surprise and won by 72 to 52.

Devonport won from Otahuhu after a close contest, in a two-rink competition, by 29 to 24.

Rocky Nook and Ponsonby tried conclusions in an eight-rink match, the latter winning by 193 to 149. The successful skips for Ponsonby were Newell, Langsford, Coutts, Watson, Swales, and for Rocky Nook Cutler, Butler, Wakerley.

In a six-rink contest between Remuera and Onehunga, the latter scoring very heavily, put up the fine performance of 135 to 98. Only one skip proved successful for Remuera, and that was the good old general, G. Court.

INTER-CLUB FIXTURES.

Rocky Nook meets Mount Albert with four rinks on Saturday, two rinks at each club's green.

The following teams will represent Mount Eden against Devonport on Saturday next:—

At Devonport: Gill, McStay, Ferguson, Martin, Walton, Toy, Seabrook, Mercer; Wooller, Dickey, Brooks, Burns.

At Mount Eden: McGregors, Newland, Simpson, Hooper; McGregor, Garland, Hudson, Rankin; A. W. Jones, Robins, Tutt, Ross.

NEW SOUTH WALES BOWLERS.

MATCH WITH REMUERA.

The New South Wales bowlers, who for the past five weeks have been touring the colony, played two four-rink matches with Remuera Club on Monday. The visitors were defeated both in the match played in the morning and that played in the afternoon, the majority on the aggregate being 24 points. A dinner was given, over which the president of the club (Mr. R. Caldwell) presided. The opportunity was taken of exchanging compliments. The president in a neatly-worded speech, touched upon the fascination of bowls, which he said did more than any other game to develop social intercourse. Mr. Crouch replied on behalf of the visitors, and he, with Mr. Evans, manager, spoke highly of the treatment they had received everywhere throughout the colony. Every where, said Mr. Crouch, that day the guests of a club possessing the finest pavilion in the colony and one of the finest greens. Mr. Evans considered the present function a fitting climax to an unprecedented tour of hospitality. Each of the visitors was presented with a photo. of the green and pavilion taken on the opening day.

inter-State games with South Australia and Victoria, got the excellent average of 36 runs per innings. Those figures only deal with the runs Gregory made with the bat. His work in the field was worth hundreds more to his side, for batsmen were afraid to go for any smart runs when the ball went in the direction of Gregory, and often did not go when they could have scored one. They knew the ability of the fieldsman, and thought it was better to be sure than sorry.

When North Shore put together 286 for seven wickets it was generally regarded as a bad lookout for Eden. On the resumption of the match on Saturday the seashiders declared and Eden led off with Brook-Smith and Reif. An excellent start was made, 129 runs being on the board before a separation was brought about. Reif was out after a steady innings of 57, and Smith (55) soon followed. G. Mills stonewalled in the hope of a draw, making 32, while chiefly through bad wicket-keeping by Dacre, extras amounted to 38. The last wicket fell with but five minutes left for play, the total then being 227. North Shore thus won by 59 runs.

Grafton secured a three-point win over Ponsonby. The latter made 90, Grafton responding with 203 (Mason 64, Clayton 41, Hay 30). Going in a second time Ponsonby could only manage 126 (Woods 32, Braithwaite 27). This left Grafton with but 14 runs to get, Hay and Mason soon knocking them off.

To Parnell's previous total of 150 City could only reply with 103, of which Dr. Neil made 52 not out. Parnell then batted again, and having lost five wickets for 60, closed their innings. City's effort to get the runs was only feeble, Archer 29 and MacCormick 20 being the only two-figure scorers. The innings realised 72, and Parnell thus won by 35 runs.

Grafton II. beat North Shore by 222 and 118 for three wickets to 123. The winners have not so far been defeated this season.

The partnership of 188 made by E. T. Harper and W. A. Humphreys for Riccarton against Linwood in the recent match must be a record for New Zealand for the ninth wicket, but it has been at least twice beaten for other wickets. On January 28th and February 4th G. Marshall (252 not out) and H. C. Wilson (200), scored 360, while together for the fifth wicket for Napier United A v. Napier United B, and in January, 1894, L. A.

Cuff (176) and J. D. Lawrence (167) scored 306 for the first wicket for Canterbury v. Auckland at Lancaster Park. The best stand on record for the last wicket in a first-class match is 230 by R. W. Nicholas (154) and Roche (74) for Middlesex against Kent at Lord's in 1899. On August 8th, 1895, for Dr. Daniel's eleven v. West Ham Wanderers, Dr. Daniel (180), and Dr. Hamilton (101) added 337 for the last wicket without either being out, and winning the match for their side.

The following is taken from the Melbourne "Argus" (11-2-1907):— "In a junior competition match, Pembroke v. Royal Oak, on Saturday, E. Castlehow made 51 not out. In one over he hit the six balls over the fence for 6 each time, and facing the same bowler in his next over, hit the first ball over the fence into a train passing on its way to St. Kilda. This probably constitutes a world's record."

J. J. Lyons is credited with having hit five 6's in one over. Last season, in a match at the Redfern Oval, V. Trumper and E. Jansen hit five balls out of the ground and the other to the fence, but at that time only five runs were allowed for hits over the fence; now six are allowed.

ATHLETICS.

I have seen it stated (writes "Harrier" in the "Australasian") that the South African A.A.A. cleared £207 over its last championship meeting, and is a very strong institution athletically and financially. Seeing how ill England treats the colonies in the matter of reciprocation in sport, I feel it is very questionable how far she is worth cultivating in future. If arrangements could be made for half a dozen South Africans to come over and tour all the Australasian States in turn, starting with Western Australia. I should think far more good to the sport would accrue than by despatching our men to England, at great expense. The public dearly like a match, and these contests should, I think, be man to man. For example, their best sprinter would meet only the best man in each State, at, say, 75, 100, and 220 yards, or 100, 220, and 440 yards. Similarly the other men might each meet a rival in two or three events. The details would, of course, need some working out, and would vary in different States, but if only athletics can be put on a "match" basis, which will not

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