

THE TIMES REPORTS, 1880

[Note: Match reports are given in full, except . . . denotes the omission of an unnecessary section, usually details of the score at the fall of each wicket, which can easily be found on the scorecard provided by Cricket Archive; bowling figures, increasingly included in the actual report but still not the scorecard; or else the inclusion of the scorecard itself.)

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10 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v ENGLAND ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2340.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 May, page 11)

A slight downpour of rain at Cambridge during the morning caused a little delay in the commencement of this match yesterday. About noon, however, the prospect brightened, and at 20 minutes to 1 hostilities began. Cambridge were successful in the toss and sent in Messrs Whitfeld and Hon Ivo Bligh to the attacks of Mr Rotherham and Barlow.

The start proved by no means hopeful, as two wickets only produced nine runs, Barlow clean bowling Mr Bligh and Mr Rotherham bringing about a similar disaster for Mr A G Steel. Dismal as this prospect was, that of the four following wickets proved even more so. The next four batsmen were readily disposed of, as, when the sixth received his dismissal, only 24 runs were recorded. This state of affairs was but little improved after the interval, as the remainder of the side were all got rid of for an addition of 13 runs. It would be unfair not to mention that the ground at times played exceedingly slippery, but that a Light Blue team containing so many good players should be all got out for 37 seems almost incredible.

England, although not batting very freely, far outstripped their rivals. Mr F Penn showed that he can still wield the willow with great freedom, and made more than a third of the runs at the fall of the ninth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 12)

Although there was an indication of wet yesterday at Cambridge, the weather held fine, and at 12.15 play began with Messrs G F Grace and Pearson resuming their places at the wickets. The stay of the remaining batsmen, however, proved brief, and with the addition of 11 runs to the previous day's performance the innings closed.

Cambridge now had a deficiency of 137 runs to make up to prevent a single innings defeat; but they were unable to accomplish this task. With the exception of Mr Ford, none showed very good form, and when their innings closed they had only put together 79 runs. England thus won by an innings and 58 runs.

13 May: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2342.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 May, page 6)

The above match, commenced at Lord's yesterday, was a most disappointing affair. Marylebone were first at the wickets, but with the exception of Wheeler, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney and Clayton none showed any very brilliant form. The innings eventually closed for 92 runs. Four bowlers were engaged, and of these three proved successful. Watson claimed five wickets for 39 runs . . .

The batting of Lancashire was not of a good character. They proved quite unable to cope with the bowling of Clayton and Rylott, and their combined efforts only exceeded those of their rivals by a little more than one-half, the innings closing for 49 runs. Rylott took five wickets for 24 runs . . .

With a deficiency of 43 runs, Marylebone started their second innings, and in this they were far more successful, as when play ceased for the day they had obtained 154 runs for seven wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 May, page 8)

Only a small number of spectators assembled at Lord's yesterday to witness the conclusion of the above match. Although the weather was really brilliant this was not surprising, owing to the advanced state of the game. The M.C.C., who on the first innings had a balance of 43 runs in their favour, had lost seven wickets of their second essay for 154 runs. Colonel Kenyon-Slaney and Clayton were the not-outs with 10 and 2 respectively.

At 20 minutes to 12 they resumed batting, having to withstand the attacks of Crossland and Watson. A separation was effected at 159, and for an addition of eight runs the venture closed. Time, 12.5. Of the seven bowlers engaged Watson met with the greatest amount of success. He delivered 39 overs, eight of which were maidens, for 59 runs and seven wickets.

Lancashire were set the task of getting 211 runs to win, and began with Mr Hornby and Barlow at 20 minutes past 12. The early bowling was intrusted to Clayton and Rylott. Mr Hornby batted with considerable freedom. Chief among his contributions were an on-drive for five and a leg hit for four, both off Clayton. Barlow displayed his usual caution, but after making four singles he drove Rylott finely to the off for five. He was, however, almost directly dismissed by the same bowler, the first wicket falling for 32 runs.

Mr Hornby received little assistance from Mr Chadwick, who was got rid of scoreless. More trouble was occasioned by Mr Kershaw, who, however, fell to a catch at third man with the total at 54. Two runs later Mr Hornby's freely hit contribution closed, and when half the wickets were down but 60 runs were registered. The fall of two more wickets for an average of 12 runs sealed Lancashire's fate. At lunch time 99 runs were totalled. Ten minutes' play sufficed to dismiss the three remaining wickets and to give M.C.C. a victory by 103 runs. Rylott's bowling helped greatly to bring

about such a result, his seven wickets obtained in 31 overs, costing but 33 runs.

13 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2341.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 May, page 6)

Although the grounds are in very fair condition for batting, heavy scoring does not seem at all general. At Cambridge yesterday, when the above annual match began, the hitting proved of a somewhat feeble character. Marylebone went down armed with a fairly strong contingent on professionals, including two such bowlers as Shaw and Morley. These made sad havoc among the University wickets; in fact, following on their poor show against the Gentlemen of England in the early part of the week, the batting of the University Eleven is simply an enigma. They were dismissed for the meagre total of 79.

Marylebone went in, and Mr Fowler, Hearne and Barnes batted in grand style. When stumps were drawn for the day seven wickets were down for 162 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 May, page 8)

Marylebone continued their innings in this match at Cambridge at 12.20 yesterday. The weather was again fine and the ground in first-class condition. Mr Rhodes (not out, 2) was accompanied to the wickets by West. Messrs Ford and Steel took charge of the ball, and in the former's first over he clean bowled West – eight for 166. Shaw came in, and Mr Ford handed the ball to Mr Gaddum, who enticed Shaw off his ground in his fifth over. Morley, the last man in, assisted in conducting the total to 207, when he lost the company of Mr Rhodes. Of the five bowlers engaged Messrs Steel and Gaddum were the most successful, each obtaining three wickets, the former for 65 runs and the latter for 34.

Cambridge were in a minority of 128 runs when they started their second venture. Their commencement was not very promising, as three wickets went down for 38 runs. Mr Steel then went in and made 70 by some good all-round cricket. The total eventually reached 171. Stumps were then drawn. Play will be resumed to-day, when Marylebone have 44 runs to get to secure victory.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 May, page 10)

It was evident, unless one of those surprises which characterize cricket was in store, that an easy victory awaited Marylebone at Cambridge on Saturday. When stumps were drawn on Friday evening Marylebone had finished an innings for 207 runs, while the University had twice been dismissed for a sum total of 250.

The former, therefore, required 44 to secure victory, and at 12.20 they sent in Wild and Ulyett to start getting them. Messrs Steel and Wilson were the bowlers. The batting at the outset was very cautious, and when 11 runs had been recorded wild succumbed to a ball of Wilson's. Hearn, who followed, stayed until the score was doubled, when he played back to the bowler. Two wickets, 22 runs. Barnes now joined Ulyett, and these two remained together until the necessary number of runs were made, the winning hit being made at a quarter-past 1. Marylebone thus won the match by eight wickets.

In the double innings the bowling analyses were as follow: . . .

17 May: ENGLAND ELEVEN v R DAFT'S AMERICAN ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2344.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 7)

The early morning of yesterday was cold and cheerless, but as the time approached for the commencement of this match at Lord's the sun shone out and thousands made their way to St John's-wood. Daft's Eleven met with such great success in the United States and Canada that many people were naturally anxious to see the combination. The English Eleven was not representative; but still it included some first-class cricketers.

Mr Lucas played the innings of the day, while Selby, who has not yet completed his venture, showed some very free hitting. The fielding of Daft's team was very good at the outset, but it got rather loose in the afternoon. The wicket, although it seemed bare in places, played well. It may be mentioned that the match was for the benefit of the Cricketers' Fund.

Within two minutes of 12 o'clock Daft's team, who had lost the toss, entered the field. Mr Hornby and Barlow first appeared on behalf of England, while Shaw and Morley were intrusted with the early bowling. The Lancashire captain made three drives, from which five only were scored, when a splendid ball of Shaw's struck the top of his wicket. Mr Lucas arrived to aid Barlow. The batting became remarkably steady, and the score was advanced by easy stages to 17, when the last-comer infused some life into the affair by twice driving Morley to the boundary for four.

For a long time after this neither batsman could make headway against the bowling. Barlow only obtained four runs in the first hour, Shaw having sent down 16 maidens in succession. As the batsmen seemed to have got well set, a change in the attack was tried, and at 31 Ulyett relieved Morley. He fared but little better, however, Mr Lucas making a fine straight drive to the pavilion and a square-leg hit to the Tennis-court off him, from each of which four resulted. This brought Bates on in lieu of him at 65, and at 75 Emmett displaced Shaw. The latter change did not open promisingly, as without any effort on the part of the batsmen 6 were added to the score un the first over - viz., 3 wides and 3 byes. In fact, the batsmen continued to defy their assailants until the luncheon hour, when 88 runs had been obtained.

Soon after the resumption of play Emmett made up for his previous ill-success by bowling Barlow (leg-stump), and with the next ball he struck Mr F Penn's off stump. Not content with this, the Yorkshireman, when only three had been added, induced Mr Lucas to return him the ball. This gentleman had played a most superb innings of 66, composed of six fours, four threes, six twos and singles. Four wickets for 102. Mr Shuter's life was a short and merry one, as in his score of 23 were three drives for four each and a cut for the same number. His - the fifth - wicket fell at 129 . . ninth 153. A most unlooked-for stand was made by Scotton and Pilling, who during their partnership against the most varied bowling put on no fewer than 59 runs. The former carried out his bat, and his hits included an on drive over the canvas by the side of the pavilion for five, three fours, two threes, four twos &c. Total, 212. Duration of innings, 4 hours 5 min. Six bowlers were engaged, but of these only half were successful . . .

Daft's Eleven began batting at 5.5, Oscroft and Lockwood going in against Mr Evans and Rylott. It appeared at first as though the amateur would be severely dealt with, as Lockwood drove him for four and made a couple of twos in one over. In the following delivery, however, Mr Evans took his leg stump, and Ulyett, who succeeded, was smartly caught at wicket off the same bowler. Oscroft was just getting well in when he played the ball back. Neither Daft nor Barnes could cope with the attack, and when the latter was bowled half the wickets were down for 61 runs.

Selby and Bates put a better aspect on affairs, both making clean and effective drives. It was not until 113 had been made that Bates retired - clean bowled. The two succeeding batsmen (Emmett and Shaw) were soon disposed of, and at the close of the day eight wickets - all of them from Mr Evans's bowling - were down for 135 runs. Umpires, Farrands and Shrewsbury.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 10)

This match was resumed early yesterday at Lord's. When play ceased on Monday England had finished their first venture for 212 runs and Daft's team had lost eight wickets for 135. Selby (the not-out with 43 on the previous evening) appeared at 11.30 with Pinder as a companion. Mr Evans and Rylott led the attack.

The Yorkshireman failed to contribute anything and soon made way for Morley, who carried out his bat. He saw the downfall of Selby, the highest score of his side, who had obtained six fours, two threes, four twos and singles - total, 149. four bowlers were tried, and of these Mr Evans claimed the lion's share of the wickets. He took nine in 30 overs and one ball (11 maidens) for 59 runs. The other wicket fell to Rylott . . .

England went on with their second innings at five minutes past 12. Mr I D Walker and Barlow faced the attacks of Shaw and Barnes. The hitting at first was mostly of a defensive character, until Barlow went in for a freer style of batting than usual by sending Barnes to leg for four and driving him for a similar number. Ulyett then superseded Barnes, and shortly afterwards Shaw made room for Morley. It was not until 33 had been reached, however, that the first wicket fell, when Mr Walker was caught off his glove by the long-stop. Mr Lucas, who had showed such grand form on the previous day, came next, but was speedily bowled by Ulyett, and in the same over Barlow suffered a similar fate. Three wickets, 37 runs.

Messrs Penn and Shuter were now companions. The latter made a very smart hit to leg for four, and in one over of Morley's Mr Penn sent a ball in the same direction, and made two cuts from which ten resulted. This brought Emmett on, and as Ulyett was liberally dealt with he made room for Bates. The latter bowler caused Mr Shuter to hit the ball up to mid-off; but the opportunity was allowed to pass. As there seemed little likelihood of the batsmen being separated, Barnes relieved Emmett, and Mt Penn was soon caught in the slips. Mr Hornby fell a victim to the bowling without having made any addition to the score, and a smart catch at wicket got rid of Scotton. Six for 105 runs. The remaining four added but five runs apiece. Mr Shuter, who had again batted freely, was caught at wicket. Total, 125. Six bowlers were tried, and four were successful.

Daft's Eleven now wanted 189 to win - a task which, with such good professional batsmen in their ranks, ought not to have been difficult. But it proved far too much for them. Lockwood made the highest innings with a

score of 20 and was then stumped, while the remainder of the batsmen could do nothing with the bowling of Mr Evans and Rylott . . . The last wicket fell for 94 runs. England were thus victors by 94 runs.

17 May: DERBYSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2343.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 7)

The first even-handed encounter of the Australians on this visit began yesterday at Derby against the county eleven. As the weather proved fine a large number of spectators were present to witness the match. The Australians, who had won the toss, sent in Bannerman and Groube at 12. Mycroft and Hay had charge of the ball.

The start was bad, as Groube was clean bowled before a single had been made. Murdoch came next and led off with a cut for four, while Bannerman immediately afterwards had a similar success. At 18, however, Murdoch was well caught at slip. Macdonnell, who had given a chance at mid-off, was eventually clean bowled. Both Blackham and Bonnor were soon dismissed by Mycroft. Indeed, of the remainder Palmer and Spofforth alone showed form, and the innings closed for 129.

Derbyshire went in but their wickets fell rapidly. Spofforth and Palmer, who divided the honours, got rid of them for 45 runs. This necessitated a follow on . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 10)

In fine weather, this match was continued yesterday at the county ground, Derby. The Australians had completed an innings for 129 runs. Derbyshire were all dismissed for 45 runs, and in their "follow on" one wicket had been lost for 21. Rigley and Barrington appeared at the wickets at 12.5 to try and improve this state of affairs. Spofforth and Palmer led the attack.

The score rapidly advanced to 44, when Rigley was bowled and made way for Foster, who was quickly caught at mid-off. Barrington, in attempting too much, had his wicket put down before he could get within the crease, while Hay, who dealt with Spofforth in a rather liberal manner (making a leg hit and an on-drive for four each), was eventually caught off him at short leg. These were the only items of importance, and the innings closed for 125 runs.

This left the Australians an easy task of 42 runs with which to beat their opponents - a feat they readily accomplished, and from the score affixed it will be seen they won the match by eight wickets.

20 May: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2347.html)

Final report (from Saturday 22 May, page 13)

A somewhat small number of spectators was present at Lord's on Thursday to witness the commencement of this match.

Shortly after 12, Sussex, who had won the toss, were put on their defence. G G Hearne and Clayton led the attack against Mr Ellis and Payne. The beginning was a most disastrous character. Not a run had been scored before Mr Ellis played on, and when five only were registered Payne was caught by the long-stop. Little improvement was shown by the next two batsmen. H Phillips gave promise of some free hitting by sending a ball of Clayton's to leg for four, but a smart catch at wicket soon disposed of him.

This made room for Mr Lucas, who for some time set the whole of the bowling at defiance. In fact, he obtained more than half the complete score. Up to the interval his wicket was kept intact, but afterwards a fine ball of Hearne's dismissed him. The remainder of the Eleven did but little against the really excellent bowling of Hearne and Clayton. Total, 127. Four bowlers were tried, but only two with success.

Marylebone sent in Mr Ross and Hearne, while Mr Sclater and Lillywhite were the bowlers. The amateur quickly came out and Mr Pearson took his place. It was not until 129 runs had been amassed that a separation was effected, Hearne falling a victim to a catch by Ellis. Among his hits were three fives, two fours, four threes and five twos. Messrs Pearson and Green showed a wonderfully free style of batting, and at the close of the day remained unvanquished. The total then stood at 204.

Heavy scoring again prevailed yesterday, when play was resumed early - 11.30. Mr Pearson, who had given one chance at the beginning of his innings, threw the rest of his side in the shade. He went in first wicket down on the previous evening and was the fifth to leave, a smart piece of stumping at last getting rid of him. During his stay at the wicket no fewer than 283 runs had been put on, and in his hits were one five, seven fours, four threes &c.

The last half of the wickets proved almost as productive as the first had done. Mr Lucas and Flowers both treated the bowling in a liberal manner. The former was caught at leg at 348 and the latter taken at wicket at 419. But ten runs were added after Mr Lucas left before the innings finished. Total 429. Seven bowlers were tried, and four of them were accredited with wickets.

It was a forlorn hope when Sussex started their second innings with a deficit of 302 runs to rub out. In addition to this Payne was hurt and unable to bat. The remaining ten came very close to the venture of the previous day, the last being out at 124. Three bowlers were engaged, but Hearne and Mr Robertson only were successful . . . Marylebone thus won the match by an innings and 178 runs.

20 May: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2346.html)

Days 1 and 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 13)

The match between these counties opened the season at Old Trafford, Stretford, near Manchester, on Thursday. The home county was successful in the toss, and sent in Mr Hornby and Barlow to the attacks of Mycroft and Hay. The professional showed not only his usual defence, but indulged in a free style of hitting until he returned the ball. His efforts were ably assisted by Leese, who came within two of him. The innings closed for 204 runs. Derbyshire then went in, and had scored 100 for two wickets when stumps were drawn for the day.

Yesterday the match was resumed, the weather being rather dull. Mr Hornby showed some very good form and played an excellent innings. At the end of the day the match was left unfinished . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 May, page 12)

There was only a small number of visitors present at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday to witness the conclusion of the match between the above counties. The weather was cold and a strong wind swept across the ground. Play was resumed at 12.10. Lancashire had one wicket to fall in their second venture, which was speedily secured, the total standing at 204.

This left Derbyshire 162 to win, and as they had exceeded this by 84 in their opening innings, it was considered highly probable that they would succeed in accomplishing the feat. Instead of this, however, they showed a marked falling off in their efforts. Hay made the greatest stand, but a too venturesome spirit brought about his downfall. Ripley again showed good form, but seven of the others realized only three runs apiece, and the tenth wicket collapsed for 141. The home county were thus victorious by 21 runs.

20 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2345.html)

Days 1 and 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 13)

Last year Cambridge University were an extraordinarily strong team, and although they have not shown in the two matches yet played any very great form, their contest against Yorkshire (commenced on the University ground, Cambridge, on Thursday) attracted a large number of spectators. The Light Blues, who had won the toss, went first to the wickets, the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Whitfeld being placed in antagonism to Bates and Peate.

Runs came at the rate of one per over until the interval was reached. A double change of bowling was found necessary after this, and at last Mr Whitfeld was clean bowled by Emmett, the first wicket having realized 77 runs. The second wicket fell for 92, and with an addition of 28 runs Mr Bligh, who had played a very fine innings, succumbed to a ball of Emmett's. Mr Studd made some very fine drives, but a catch by Lockwood at length disposed of him. At the end of the day seven wickets only were down for a total of 214 runs.

Play was continued yesterday, but stumps were drawn early . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 May, page 12)

Saturday last was a dull, gloomy day for cricket, and in many places it was feared that matches left unfinished on the previous evening would remain in that state altogether. This was especially so in the case of the above contest, as when play was discontinued on Friday, an innings each had not been completed. True, the University had put together the large score of 272, while the county had lost seven wickets for 149, so that a follow-on was anticipated. Yet it was expected that the latter would offer a stouter resistance in their second venture; but although to a slight extent this proved the case, Cambridge gained an easy victory.

Play was resumed at 12.15, and the three outstanding Yorkshire wickets were captured for a dozen runs. Total, 161. Five bowlers were tried, three with success . . .

Yorkshire, with 111 runs on the wrong side of their account, were sent in a second time, Ulyett and Grimshaw being put in opposition to Messrs Steel and Morton. These batsmen hit in a very free style, and caused Mr Steel to hand the ball to Mr Wilson. The score travelled to 51, however, before a smart catch at cover-point disposed of Ulyett. Taylor came next, and soon afterwards Mr Steel resumed bowling. For a brief time runs came freely; but then 15 successive overs only produced five. Mr Foley, who had been instrumental in the downfall of four batsmen in the previous innings, then got rid of Grimshaw by a clever piece of stumping. Two wickets, 68 runs.

Luncheon now intervened, and after the interval Lockwood appeared and secured the score of the innings before being clean bowled by Mr Steel. He was well supported by Mr Riley, and it was not until 184 was totalled that the last wicket fell. Five bowlers were again tried; but Mr Steel threw his companions into the shade, claiming seven wickets . . .

The university now had the moderate task of gaining 74 runs for victory. They sent in the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Whitfeld to start getting them. These gentlemen proved quite equal to the occasion, as, although four bowlers were brought against them, they could not be separated, Mr Bligh batting with particular freedom. At 6 o'clock the winning hit was made. Cambridge thus won by ten wickets.

24 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2348.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 10)

The above match was commenced yesterday at Cambridge. The visitors were first at the wickets; the Hon A Lyttelton and Mr C I Thornton faced the bowling of Messrs Steel and Morton. Mr Foley again showed his ability behind the wicket by stumping Mr Thornton. That next batsman, Mr Heath, was also soon dismissed – clean bowled. Two wickets, 17 runs.

Mr Lyttelton was now joined by Mr F Penn, and the hitting soon became free. In fact, it was not until 137 had been reached that the first-named gentleman was taken at mid-on. Among his hits were six fours, three fours and seven twos. Mr Walker went to the assistance of Mr Penn, when four byes were scored in quick succession. At 163 Mr Wilson took the ball at the Orchard end. Mr Walker was shortly caught at long slip, having contributed 32; and four overs later, after Mr Webbe had made a four hit off the fast bowler, Mr Hargreaves had to leave, being bowled by Mr Steel. The innings closed at 5 o'clock for 232.

The University commenced their first innings with the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr H Whitfeld to the bowling of Messrs Rotherham and Buchanan, and when play ceased for the day they still maintained their defence, Mr Bligh having contributed 15 and Mr Whitfeld nine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 12)

Play in this important match was continued yesterday at Cambridge. On the previous evening the Gentlemen of England had completed an innings for 232 runs, and the University had scored 27 without loss of wicket. The Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Whitfeld resumed batting to the attacks of Messrs Rotherham and Buchanan.

Fifteen runs were made off two overs of the first-named bowler, and he made way for Mr Robertson. Almost immediately afterwards Mr Bligh gave a chance to slip which was let go by. This proved unlucky for England, as, although the bowling was changed and re-changed, the batsmen kept their wickets intact up to luncheon time, when the total stood at 143. After the resumption of play the score was advanced to 150, when Mr Bligh tried to stop a ball of Mr Robertson's; but it ran up his bat and he was caught close to the wicket. One down. The batting continued to be free, and when stumps were drawn Cambridge had made no fewer than 343 for the loss of three wickets only.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 10)

Heavy scoring on the part of Cambridge enabled them to occupy the wickets the whole of yesterday on the University ground. The match, therefore, was drawn.

24 May: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2349.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 10)

The attendance at Lord's yesterday at the commencement of this match was small, but improved considerably during the afternoon.

Play began at five minutes past noon. Yorkshire having won the toss sent in Grimshaw and Ulyett to the bowling of Shaw (pavilion wicket) and Rylott. Runs came at a very slow rate, as the first 10 took three minutes each to obtain. To this a single had been added, when Ulyett was easily stumped, and at the same total a catch at deep mid-off got rid of Grimshaw. Lockwood made the seven runs secured before his departure, which was brought about by a catch at wicket. Three for 18 runs. Walker and Taylor succeeded in doubling the total before they were separated, when the latter was clean bowled. Bates came in and drove a ball of Rylott's to the on for four, but then lost Walker - bowled. Half the wickets for 41.

Mr Riley then proceeded to the wickets; and without alteration in the total Barnes superseded Rylott. This had no appreciable effect on the scoring, and the total travelled to 62, when it was thought expedient to allow Rylott to resume at his own end. Shortly afterwards Bates returned the ball. His innings was made up of three fours, one three and two twos. Luncheon was now announced, and afterwards Emmett joined Mr Riley. Three wickets were gained in seven overs, when a shooter hit Emmett's wicket low down and shook the bails off. Mr Riley continued to bat well, and after seeing Pinder caught at point and Hill well taken at long-on, a ball of Shaw's struck his leg stump. Total 84. Time, 3.10. three bowlers were tried, but Shaw and Rylott alone took wickets.

Mr Hornby and Midwinter started against this moderate total at 3.30. Bates and Emmett were intrusted with the early bowling. The scoring soon became brisk. Mr Hornby sent two balls of Bates's to leg for four and hit another to the off for a similar number. The first 24 runs came at the rate of two a minute, and at 25 Peate supplanted Bates. Emmett continued to be severely dealt with, Mr Hornby making a drive and a leg hit, which realized eight runs. At last, however, when more than half the opposite total had been subscribed, Mr Hornby was clean bowled. One wicket, 43 runs.

Barnes distinguished himself by hitting Peate to leg for five; and at 65 Midwinter was clean bowled. Two wickets down. Soon afterwards Barnes was bowled, Mr Russell taken at mid-off and Mr Foljambe at mid-on. Five wickets, 85 runs. The remaining half of the batsmen only added 29 runs, Mr Pearson, who played on, obtaining the highest score. Total, 115. Of the four bowlers engaged, Peate claimed first honours, as he took six wickets .
. .

Yorkshire began their second venture with a deficiency of 31 runs. The commencement of the county was of a most disheartening nature. Shaw bowled Grimshaw with his first ball, Ulyett was caught at wicket at 3, and Lockwood served in the same way at 4. Taylor played on at 10, and at 15 Walker escaped being stumped. Despite this latter let off, however, the misfortunes of the county had not ceased, as at 20 Walker was well caught at long field on. At the same total Mr Riley was well taken at deep mid-on, and at 37 Emmett was clean bowled. Stumps were then drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 12)

Three-quarters of an hour proved sufficient to bring the above match at Lord's to a close yesterday. When stumps were drawn on Monday each side had finished an innings – the home team for 115 and Yorkshire for 84. The latter had also lost eight wickets for 34 runs. Ten only were added to this total, when Hill, the last man, was caught in the slips. Shaw and Rylott divided the wickets . . .

Marylebone now had 14 runs to win. These, of course, they had not the slightest difficulty in getting, and at 20 minutes past 12 Midwinter made a drive for three, which won the match for the Club and Ground by ten wickets. Umpires – West and Sherwin.

27 May: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2350.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 12)

The first of the many inter-county matches to be played in the metropolis this season was commenced at Lord's yesterday. Some capital batting was shown by several players on the Middlesex side, notably by Messrs Pearson and Vernon. The fielding of neither county was at all brilliant.

A start was made shortly before half-past 11, Middlesex, who had won the toss, going to the wickets with Messrs I D Walker and A J Webbe. Blamires and Read conducted the attack. The latter bowled from the Pavilion end, and received at first the greater share of punishment. Runs came freely from both batsmen, and when 35 were registered it was deemed advisable to substitute Potter for Read. Despite the change, 54 runs were totalled in the opening half-hour. At this stage Mr Walker failed to play a ball which broke in from the leg side, and forfeited his position. In the retiring batsman's contribution were a drive for six and a cut for five. Mr C T Studd, who filled the vacancy, had been in but a short period when Mr Webbe was caught at slip. Two wickets, 63 runs.

Mr Pearson then came in. An addition of nine runs having been made to the total, Mr Studd was bowled. Three wickets down. During the association of Messrs Vernon and Pearson a most stubborn resistance was offered to the bowling, which underwent frequent changes. Mr Clarke went on in place of Blamires at 96, but at 12.45 three figures represented the total. At 109 Mr Lucas deposed Potter, and one run later Mr Clarke gave the ball back to Blamires. Still the score advanced at a good rate, but it received a check at 128, as Mr Vernon, who had played very creditably, fell to a catch at mid off.

Mr G B Studd joined Mr Pearson, and, owing chiefly to the free hitting of the latter, who drive and played Read in one over for four each, the run-getting was again brisk. Several alterations were made in the mode of attack, but none took effect until a bailer got rid of Mr G B Studd. Half the wickets, 170 runs. Mr Francis was the next to come and go - caught very finely from a low and sharp return. Six for 180. Subsequently two wickets - those of Messrs Stewart and Pearson - fell before any increase had been made. Mr Cottrell was quickly disposed of, bowled off his pad at 193. The last pair put together between them exactly 30 runs. The innings slowed at 3.40. Of five bowlers engaged, Blamires met with the greatest amount of success . . .

On behalf of Surrey Messrs Cattley and Jupp first occupied the wickets. Mr C T Studd opened the attack. The batting was steady, but with 22 registered Mr Cattley had to make way for Mr Lucas, who at 34 was clean bowled. Mr Shuter and Jupp remained together until the total reached 65, and then the latter had Humphrey for a partner. The bowling was hit freely, and 35 were added before Jupp's not altogether faultless innings closed. Read joined Humphrey, and these two were still together when stumps were drawn . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 12)

At the close of the first day's play in the above match Surrey had lost four wickets for 123 runs and were 100 behind the Middlesex total. Humphrey and Read were the not-outs with 37 and 5 respectively, and a few minutes after 11 these two continued their innings against the attack of Messrs C T Studd and Walker.

Humphrey was caught at mid-off when the score had reached 146. Three wickets were then disposed of in rather rapid succession: Read at 160, Mr Clarke at 175 and Comber at 179. Pooley and Potter both gave considerable trouble, and it was not until the partnership had produced 42 runs that the first-named made room for Blamires. The innings closed for 267 at 20 minutes to 2.

With a deficiency of 44 runs the home county began a second innings, being first represented by Messrs Stewart and Webbe. Blamires and Mr Lucas had charge of the bowling. Mr Stewart gave an easy chance to mid-off, and the first wicket went at eight. Mr Walker came in, and at 194 Mr Webbe was given out leg before wicket. Mr Walker remained with Mr Studd until 235 runs were reached, when he was clean bowled. Three wickets then fell for an average of nine runs, but Messrs Francis and C T Studd carried the figures to 306, at which total the former and Mr Cottrell were both dismissed.

No further loss was sustained, and the match at 7 o'clock was declared drawn, a continuance being prevented through a previous arrangement having been made with the Hunts' Servants Benefit Society for the match to-day between huntsmen and jockeys.

27 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2351.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 12)

In consequence of the rain which fell during the greater part of yesterday, the commencement of this match was postponed until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 12)

A heavy downpour of rain at Oxford on Thursday rendered it necessary to postpone play in this annual match until yesterday. A start was then made soon after 11 o'clock. The University went in first, but their batting was weak in the extreme. Both Shaw and Morley were in good form, and got rid of their rivals for the modest total of 53. each bowled 32 overs, and Morley claimed six wickets and Shaw four.

Marylebone managed to lead by 38. Oxford in their second venture improved a little, but only left Marylebone the easy task of getting 40 run to win. This they obtained, but not without some difficulty. From the full score affixed it will be seen that Marylebone won by two wickets.

31 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2354.html)

Day 1 – no report found

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 12)

This match was announced to be played on Cowley-marsh, Oxford, and as the weather yesterday morning was fine a start was made. The visitors went in first, Messrs Walker and Thornton being placed in opposition to Messrs Evans and Harrison.

The first wicket (Mr Thornton's) fell for 14 and the next comer's (Mr Heath) was dismissed at 19, while Mr Pearson failed to add anything. Mr Webbe joined Mr Walker, and these soon gave the attacking party some trouble. Several changes of bowling were tried, and at 73 Mr Walker gave a chance to Mr Hirst, which was not accepted. The Middlesex captain took care to profit by this; but he was eventually clean bowled. After his departure the rest of the team made but little, and the last wicket fell for 126. Mr Evans claimed five wickets . . .

The University then went in, but were all got rid of for 94, mainly owing to the good bowling of Mr Rotherham, who took six wickets in 24 overs, for 34 runs. The Gentlemen of England began a second venture, and when stumps were drawn had lost eight wickets for 114 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 10)

An early commencement was made in this match at Cowley Marsh yesterday. England had finished their first innings for 126 and Oxford reached the same stage for 94, while the visitors had also lost eight batsmen for 114 runs. The two outstanding wickets realized but six runs, and at noon the last fell for a total of 120. Mr Jellicoe and Mr M'Lachlan alone took wickets. The former claimed six for 27 runs . . .

Oxford now required 153 to win, but, oddly enough, they did not get beyond the total made by their rivals in the second venture. Mr Buchanan took half the wickets in 29 overs for 31 runs . . . From the full score appended it will be seen that England won a well-contested match by 32 runs.

31 May: ENGLAND ELEVEN v R DAFT'S AMERICAN ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2352.html)

Day 1 – no report found

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 12)

This match was commenced at Kennington Oval yesterday. Considering the bad light and the heavy state of the ground, the play was better than could have been expected.

Daft's team went in first, Shrewsbury and Oscroft facing the bowling of Peate and Hill. The start was hopeful, as Shrewsbury cut the first ball he received for 4. Rain caused an interruption of nearly ten minutes after the opening over had been bowled. The game was resumed, and the first ball Hill sent down clean bowled Oscroft. In fact, this bowler was in very good form, in addition to which the pavilion wicket did not play too true. He next caused Shrewsbury to be caught at short leg and then clean bowled Ulyett. Three wickets for 7. Two runs only had been made from ten of his overs when Selby was easily caught at point. Daft and Emmett were now together, but runs were obtained at a very slow pace, the first 20 occupying over 40 minutes. The next batsman was soon after secured, as Emmett in hitting round to leg was taken by Pilling. Five wickets were thus lost for 26 runs.

Barnes went to the assistance of Daft, and these two made a most determined stand. Forty was soon reached, and although the bowling was twice changed the total at luncheon stood at 61. When play was resumed Barnes made a splendid on-drive for five; but at 83 Daft, who had played excellent cricket, was bowled – off stump. Six down. Bates was served in a similar manner at 96, and a run later Shaw retired, caught at mid-off. The last two wickets added 30 runs, when a fine catch at mid-off disposed of Barnes and brought the innings to a close. Total, 127. Four bowlers were engaged, and three of them were successful. Hill claimed seven wickets . . .

England started their batting in a most brilliant manner. Mr J Shuter and Jupp were opposed by Shaw and Morley. The amateur quickly made two leg hits for four each, an on-drive for the same number, and a cut for three, while Jupp got a cut for five. Twenty runs were thus obtained in five hits; but then came a check, and with two added Mr Shuter was bowled. The three succeeding wickets only added 16 between them – Midwinter, caught at short leg; Jupp, clean bowled; and Mr Hornby, well taken at mid-on. Four wickets, 38 runs.

Humphrey and Barlow played steady cricket. The former batted in quite his old style, making clean cuts and effective drives. So well did the pair acquit themselves that it was not until 82 had been reached that Humphrey played the ball back to the bowler. Scotton and Barlow remained together till 7 o'clock, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 10)

Rain fell so fast at Kennington yesterday that a continuation of this match could not have been made until 20 minutes to 1. On the previous evening Daft's team had scored 127, and England lost half their wickets for 93.

Scotton, the not out with five, hit away with remarkable freedom and was last man out. He had made the innings of the match, consisting of an off-drive for five, three fours, three threes, eight twos & c. Total, 157. Time, 3 o'clock. Of the five bowlers engaged, four were successful . . .

There was a debt of 30 runs to be rubbed out when Shrewsbury and Oscroft went to the wickets for Daft's team. Hill and Peate led the attack. The batting was not of a very high character at the outset, as five wickets fell for only 47 runs; thus, at 8 Oscroft was run out, Shrewsbury hit the ball into the hands of long-on at 27, three runs afterwards Ulyett was taken at point, at 40 daft was bowled, and at 47 Selby was served in the same way. With an addition of 11 runs Barnes played on, and at 75 Bates was run out.

Shaw and Emmett hit with great freedom. The former made a square leg hit for five, and the latter a cut for six. These were the most important hits until, at ten minutes past 5 o'clock, the 100 was signalled. Three changes were tried before Emmett was clean bowled. He had played a very good innings, consisting of one six and a five (both cuts), four fours, a three, two twos and singles. The venture soon after came to a close, as at 133 Pinder was taken at long-on, and at 135 Morley was caught at short mid-on. Total, 135. Time, 5.40. Four bowlers were engaged and all of them took wickets . . .

The England team required 106 to win when, at 6 o'clock, they started to get them. Against this almost hopeless chance Jupp and Mr Shuter went in. Bates and Morley bowled. The first wicket fell for a single, Mr Shuter being caught at long-off. At 7 Jupp was caught at point, and when a dozen had been reached Midwinter fell an easy prey to slip. It was hoped that Hornby and Barlow would show some improvement, but the last named was well taken at point. Four wickets, 18 runs.

Humphrey came and batted well, but was then struck in the face and had to retire. Scotton took his place, and when he was caught at mid-on the day's play ceased. The match was therefore drawn. Umpires, Lockwood and Street.

31 May: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2353.html)

Day 1 – no report found

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 12)

At Lord's yesterday a weak team represented the M.C.C. and the Kent eleven was an indifferent one. The home club first occupied the wicket with Mr Studd and W Hearn. Bray and G G Hearne conducted the attack and met with marked success. One wicket fell for nothing and seven followed for an average of five runs. Sherwin and West then took the score to 58, and this was the only stand made during the innings, which lasted about an hour and a half and realized 61. Hearne took five wickets at a cost of 17 runs and Bray four for 35.

Kent began batting at 1.15 with O'Shaughnessy and F Hearne, opposed to whom were Rylott and Clayton. Five minutes were exhausted for eight runs, when rain caused play to be suspended, and it was not until two hours later that the game could be continued. A clever catch by the wicket-keeper (who had to run some distance towards short leg) got rid of F Hearne at 20, Mr Mackenzie was caught at point from the second ball he received, and O'Shaughnessy was smartly taken at the wicket. Three for 25.

Lord Harris and Mr Jones then became associated. Lord Harris hit with great determination, and by the efforts of this pair of batsmen the score advanced at a very brisk rate. Frequent changes were made in the bowling, but 140 runs were made before a separation occurred, Lord Harris being the first to go. In his excellent contribution were a six, two fives, a four, eight threes and three twos.

Mr Jones saw G Hearne, Mr Pawley and Mr Cunliffe disposed of for an addition of 27, and at 183 was himself clean bowled. His well-hit innings included a five, four fours, seven threes and eight twos. The remainder did very little, and the tenth wicket fell for 195 at 12 minutes past 6. Of the four bowlers engaged Rylott proved most useful. In 50 overs he obtained five wickets at an average cost of 12 runs.

M.C.C. started a second innings, and when stumps were drawn had lost one wicket for 30 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 10)

At the close of an innings each in this match, commenced at Lord's on Tuesday, the M.C.C. were in arrear to the extent of 134 runs. Of this number they had, when stumps were drawn, made 30 for the loss of one wicket, Mr Studd being not out 11 and W Hearn not out 17.

Yesterday these batsmen continued their innings to the bowling of Bray and Hearne. The professional was quickly got rid of, but Mr Studd played very good cricket until the score reached 111, when he ran himself out. In his excellent contribution were a five, two fours, two threes and 13 twos. With Mr Studd's dismissal five wickets were down, and as the remaining half averaged eight runs, the innings closed for 151 at ten minutes to 2, having been once delayed for a short period by rain. During the latter portion of

the essay the fielding of Kent was rather loose. Had it been otherwise the visitors would probably have secured a one innings victory . . .

Kent were set the task of getting 17 runs, and, accomplishing it without loss, won by ten wickets . . .

3 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2355.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 June, page 12)

This county match was commenced at Lord's yesterday. Yorkshire started the batting, Burrows and Ulyett being opposed by Messrs Stratford and Bulpett. The first-named batsman proved far too venturesome and paid the penalty. One wicket, 26 runs. Ulyett remained while the score was doubled, and then a ball of Mr Henery's shot under his bat into the wicket.

Mr Riley's stay was short, and Bates went to the aid of Lockwood. These caused the home county some anxiety, and it was not until 70 had been reached that Lockwood, who had shown some sound cricket, played the ball on to his wicket; and before a run had been added Bates was clean bowled. Of the remainder, Grimshaw played well, while Hall's innings was characterized by its steadiness. Pinder hit with great freedom and put together 23, when he was caught at cover point. The innings closed for a total of 153.

Middlesex began their batting in a most determined manner. Messrs A J Webbe and I D Walker met all the devices of which Yorkshire was capable at defiance until 65 had been reached, when the former was taken in the slips. The Middlesex captain continued to bat in very fine form and made the innings of the day, having contributed more than a third of the runs made off the bat before he was clean bowled. Messrs Pearson and Vernon (both of whom fell victims to the wicket-keeper) played well, and the venture closed for 197.

Yorkshire, who were now 44 runs to the bad, commenced their second innings, and when stumps were drawn had made 22 without loss of wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 June, page 12)

Considering the poor form shown by Yorkshire in the early part of last week against Marylebone, their most sanguine friends were not prepared to see the determined stand which they made yesterday. They occupied the wickets nearly all day and put together the large total of 307. The innings closed at 5.30. No fewer than seven bowlers were tried and five of them took wickets . . . The game will be continued to-day at 11 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 June, page 12)

A little over an hour and a half proved sufficient to bring this county match to a close at Lord's on Saturday last. Four bowlers were engaged. Emmett claimed four wickets . . . From the full score annexed it will be seen that Yorkshire won the match by 88 runs. Umpires, Clayton and Nixon.

3 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2356.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 June, page 12)

Rain prevented much advance being made in this match at Nottingham yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 June, page 12)

In dull, showery weather this county match was continued at Nottingham yesterday. With the exception of Mr Lucas, Surrey made a very feeble opposition to the attacks of their rivals, and the innings realized but 82 runs. Shaw bowled five wickets . . and Morley four wickets . . .

Nottingham did not much improve on this, as they lost half their wickets for 50 runs, and the remaining half only added 54 more. Blamires took four wickets . . . Surrey were now 22 runs to the bad, and when stumps were drawn had lost four wickets for 22 runs. Play will be resumed to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 June, page 12)

Rain interfered with play in the above match at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, on each of the three days set apart for it, and the consequence was that the game had to be left drawn. At the close of Friday each side had finished an innings, and Surrey had lost four wickets for 22 runs.

On Saturday the six outstanding wickets proved much more profitable. Mr Clarke was taken at point and Mr Lucas caught at wicket; both hit freely; while Mr Strachan took out his bat for a well-played 18. The last wicket fell soon after 3 o'clock for 106. Of the four bowlers tried, three were successful. Shaw took five wickets . . .

Notts went in at 3.20 with 85 before them to win. This number they most certainly would have obtained had not rain thrice interrupted the game, as when stumps were drawn 72 had been secured at the cost of two wickets.

7 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2358.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 10)

A rather strong Marylebone Eleven were brought into the field yesterday at Lord's to test the strength of Derbyshire. The home team went in first; Mr Russel and Barnes being opposed by Mycroft and Hay. Mr Russel was eventually run out, and Mr Studd filled the vacancy. It was not until 66 had been reached that the second (Mr Studd's) wicket fell. Mr Law was caught at cover point, and Mr Vernon was Barnes's next companion; the pair soon caused the county considerable anxiety.

Change followed change; but it was not until the total had been conducted from 71 to 140 that a capital catch at wicket got rid of Mr Vernon. His hits included one seven (off-drive), five fours, three threes &c. Four batsmen were now dismissed. Barnes, who continued to hit away vigorously, saw the downfall of Messrs Ford and Turner before he played under a ball into the wicket-keeper's hands. His innings was a most praiseworthy performance, and consisted of two fives, eight fours, four threes &c. The venture soon afterwards came to a close for a total of 201.

Derbyshire proved themselves quite unable to compete against the bowling of Shaw and Morley, and the whole of them were dismissed for 26. The visitors showed some improvement in their "follow on," and when stumps were drawn had lost two wickets for 27 runs. Umpires, Farrands and Nixon.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 12)

All interest in this match at Lord's ended with Monday's play. The most enthusiastic admirers of Derbyshire could not have had much doubt about the result of the game. The bowling of Shaw and Morley was of such a deadly character that the county only made 74 in their second venture. Marylebone thus won by an innings and 101 runs . . .

7 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2357.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 10)

Some years have now elapsed since a game was played between these counties, and unfortunately its resuscitation yesterday at Manchester was not marked by favourable weather. A downpour of rain in the morning caused the commencement of the match to be delayed until past 1 o'clock.

Surrey, who had won the toss, then sent in Mr L A Shuter and Jupp to the bowling of M'Intyre and Watson. The play on the part of both batsmen was cautious, and the total steadily reached 27, when M'Intyre resigned in favour of Barlow. A couple only were added, when Mr Shuter had the ill-luck to be bowled off his pad; and his brother, who succeeded him, was clean bowled at 34. Humphrey joined Jupp and the total was carried to 39, when an adjournment was made for luncheon.

On resuming, Humphrey made a straight drive for four off Barlow; but very soon afterwards the latter bowled him. Three wickets, 50 runs. Rain now fell heavily and delayed play for some time. On resuming, the batsmen were got rid of in a surprisingly quick manner, as the last seven wickets only added 34 runs.

Lancashire had got nearly up to their opponents' total at the cost of two wickets when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 12)

This county match was continued yesterday at Manchester, and the home party more than doubled the total of their rivals in the first essay. With a deficit of 112 runs Surrey began their second innings, and when play was suspended four wickets were down for 63 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 10)

The weather at Manchester yesterday was fine, but, as most of the interest in the match had evaporated, the attendance was by no means large. When Surrey began their second venture they required 112 runs to avert a single innings defeat. So good was the bowling of the home team that they were unable to obtain this number, and at noon a catch at cover point got rid of Mr Cattley and brought Surrey's efforts to a close. Four bowlers were tried and all of them took wickets. Barlow claimed 5 . . . From the full score appended it will be gathered that Lancashire won by an innings and 41 runs.

7 June: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2359.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 10)

The above county match began at Huddersfield yesterday. In the early part of the morning rain fell fast, but towards noon it cleared, and a pretty stiff breeze had a drying effect on the wicket. Yorkshire, successful in the toss, sent in Lockwood and Grimshaw. G Hearne and Bray had charge of the attack.

The first named batsman should have been caught at slip before he had made a single, but he was missed, and taking advantage of this let off, he hit away vigorously. Repeated changes were necessary before Lockwood was caught at cover point, and soon afterwards his companion suffered a similar fate. Some free hitting was also shown by Bates, Ulyett, Mr Bottomley, Emmett and Walker, and the total had reached 245 before the last wicket fell. O'Shaughnessy and Bray each took four wickets . . .

Kent went in and had scored 4 runs when play ceased . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 12)

A heavy downpour of rain at Huddersfield yesterday prevented much progress being made in the above match . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 10)

This match was left drawn yesterday, having been frequently interrupted during its progress by heavy showers of rain. The chief features of the last day's play were the bowling of Peate, who sent down 46 (23 maiden) overs for 32 runs and six wickets, and the batting of Mr Pattisson.

10 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2360.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 June, page 10)

In favourable weather the second match of the week, at Old Trafford, near Manchester, was commenced yesterday. Lancashire began batting soon after 12 and were not disposed of under a total of 157. Of the four bowlers engaged G G Hearne was most successful, taking four wickets for 51 runs; Bray claimed three at an expense of 55, and Mr Cunliffe two for 26 runs.

Kent made a most promising beginning, and when stumps were drawn had lost but one wicket for 78 runs . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 12)

This match, commenced at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Thursday, was continued yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 June, page 12)

This match was resumed on Saturday at Old Trafford, Manchester. On the previous evening each side had completed an innings, and Lancashire, who then had a balance of 45 runs in hand, had lost half their wickets for 128. The remaining wickets were quickly captured for the small addition of 16 runs.

Kent now required 190 runs to win, but their batting proved too weak. The Kentish captain alone succeeded in struggling into double figures, and the last batsman was got rid of for 54. Watson and Barlow both bowled well. From the full score affixed it will be seen that Lancashire won by 135 runs.

10 June: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2361.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 June, page 10)

This match was begun at Kennington-oval yesterday afternoon. Proceedings were commenced a few minutes after 12, when Surrey sent in Jupp and Mr A P Lucas to oppose the bowling of Mr W G Grace and Woof. Before the ball changed hands for the first time Jupp gave a chance at slip to Woof, which, however, was not accepted.

Cautious play by both batsmen brought the score to 23, at which stage Mr Lucas was caught at short leg. Mr L A Shuter succeeded, but soon lost the company of Jupp – easily stumped. Mr J Shuter came in, and at 40 his brother was caught at point. Mr Hartley Smith took the bat and the score was quickly increased to 66, when Mr Smith fell to a splendid catch in the long field. Humphrey was caught at clip without adding to the score, and at 80 Mr Clarke returned the ball to the bowler. Read and Blamires were the last pair, and on the total reaching 114 the former was bowled off his pad. Mr W G Grace and Wood shared the bowling. Each took five wickets.

Gloucestershire were first represented by Messrs W G Grace and E M Grace, the bowling being placed in the hands of Potter and Blamires. No stand, however, was made until Mr G F Grace was joined by Midwinter. Even then runs came very slowly, and at 45 Midwinter was caught at point. At 70 Mr G F Grace was driven on to his wicket, and the innings was brought to a close when 84 was totalled. Potter took seven wickets . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 12)

When stumps were drawn in this match at the Oval on Thursday each side had completed their first innings – Surrey for 114 and Gloucestershire for 84. Play was resumed yesterday at ten minutes past 12 by Jupp and Mr L A Shuter batting. Mr W G Grace and Woof took charge of the bowling.

Mr L A Shuter hit freely, but at 10 (nine runs from his own bat) he was taken at mid-off. Mr Lucas then came in. Both batsmen played with care and increased the score to 28, when Gloucestershire was deprived for a short time of the services of Woof, who had his finger badly hurt in trying to stop a return, and was compelled to leave the ground to have it attended to. Midwinter took his place, and runs were made very slowly until Midwinter was cut splendidly for five by Mr Lucas. Shortly after this Mr W G Grace gave place to his brother, Mr G F Grace. Mr Lucas took advantage of the change in bowling by driving Mr G F Grace for three and sending him to leg for four. Jupp also made a four (leg hit) off the same bowler. Mr W G Grace resumed, but was unable to separate the batsmen.

After luncheon Jupp was bowled by Midwinter, without adding further to the score. Two wickets for 72 runs. Two more were made, and Mr Lucas fell to Mr W G Grace. At 77 Humphrey was caught at mid-off by Mr Gilbert, and only seven more were added when Read was dismissed by Midwinter. Messrs Smith and Shuter soon followed, the former being run out at 96 and the latter stumped at 101. Little was done after this, and the three remaining wickets were disposed of when the score had reached 114.

Gloucestershire now required 145 to win. They did not average half-a-dozen runs apiece, and at the fall of the tenth wicket found themselves defeated by 82 runs. The bowling of Mr Lucas and Potter is noteworthy. The former took five wickets . . .

10 June: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2362.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 June, page 10)

Yesterday the most important of the contests yet down on the list of the Colonials was commenced at Dewsbury. The batting of Yorkshire proved very feeble. Five of their wickets fell to Spofforth for 31 runs, and the remainder to Palmer for 22 runs . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 12)

This match at Dewsbury was concluded yesterday, the Australians, thanks to Spofforth's bowling and M'Donnell's vigorous hitting, winning with five wickets to fall.

14 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2364.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 5)

This match began at Lord's yesterday in dull, threatening weather. Gloucestershire won the toss, and sent in Doctors W G and E M Grace to the bowling of Mr Studd and Wilson. The score travelled rapidly to 35, when Mr Ford displaced Wilson. This soon had the wished-for effect, as at 30 the new bowler dismissed Mr E M Grace. This gentleman had obtained nearly three fourths of the score by four 4's (two drives, a cut and a leg hit) and singles.

Mr Gilbert and Mr Cranston only contributed four between them, but Dr W G Grace continued to bat with such determined that when he was joined by his brother, Mr G F Grace, the total had reached 76 for three wickets. Despite several changes they remained together until at 1.40 the "100" was signalled. Thirteen only had been added when Mr W G Grace was easily caught at point. His innings was an admirable display of batting and comprised six fours, four threes, seven twos &c. Mr Cole joined Mr G F Grace and the score had reached 175 before the former returned the ball. Midwinter went to the aid of Mr G F Grace, and at 5.30 rain stopped play for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 12)

Rain interfered considerably with the progress of this match on the opening day, at the close of which but five Gloucestershire wickets had been disposed of for 194 runs. Yesterday a continuance was effected in dull weather before a fair muster of spectators. Mr G F Grace, (not out) 52, and Midwinter, (not out) 6, resumed batting at a quarter to 12, opposed by Messrs Studd and Ford.

Only 19 had been added to the overnight score when Midwinter was caught at the wicket. Mr G F Grace received substantial assistance from Messrs Gribble and Knapp, but outstayed them both. At length he returned a ball to the bowler, and with his dismissal nine wickets were down for 271 runs. Of this number, by excellent cricket, the retiring batsman had made 83, inclusive of a five, four fours, four threes and ten twos. The innings came to an end at a quarter-past 1 for 281 runs.

The Middlesex batting proved disappointing. Messrs Lyttelton and Thornton first occupied the wickets, having to withstand the attack of Mr W G Grace and Midwinter. Mr Thornton hit hard and successfully for a few overs, but with the exception of Mr Scott alone offered much resistance to the Gloucestershire bowling. The venture lasted an hour and three-quarters and realized 96 runs.

In arrears to the extent of 185 runs, Middlesex followed on with Messrs Webbe and Walker, both of whom met the bowling of Mr W G Grace and Midwinter with a great deal of confidence. The first ten overs produced 45 runs, made in just over a quarter of an hour. At 47 Mr G F Grace deposed his brother, but still the score advanced at a good rate. Mr Walker was missed by the bowler when he had made 23, and assisted Mr Webbe in carrying the total to 70 (the result of 38 minutes' play), when rain put an end to the day's proceedings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 11)

The heavy downpour of rain during Tuesday night and the early morning of yesterday so completely saturated the ground at Lord's that play in this county match could not be resumed until past 3 o'clock. Even then it did not last long, and before 4 the game had to be abandoned. Umpires, Nixon and Pullin.

14 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2366.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 5)

Play in this county match began at Sheffield yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 12)

This match was resumed yesterday at Bramhall-lane, Sheffield. When play ceased Surrey had lost seven wickets for 273 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 11)

The inclement weather which interrupted several matches in the South of England yesterday did not leave these combatants at Bramhall-lane, Sheffield, unmolested. Surrey could not restart batting in their first innings until half-past 2, and then an hour sufficed for the capture of the three outstanding wickets. The total realized no fewer than 284, Jupp carrying out his bat for an excellent innings of 119. The total on the other side was 214.

14 June: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2365.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 5)

These neighbouring counties began their first match of the season yesterday at Brighton. The weather was fine and the ground in good order. Sussex lost the toss and turned out into the field at noon, Mr H E Harris and Young being intrusted to open the account for Hampshire.

The commencement was of a somewhat disheartening nature, as at 5 Young was capitally taken at mid-off, and with only half-a-dozen added Wheeler played the ball back to the bowler. Mr Lacey joined Mr Harris and the aspect of affairs was quickly altered. Both successfully defied the attacks brought against them until at 86 Mr Harris was stumped. Mr Booth came, and the batting again became triumphant. The total had arrived at 123 before Mr Lacey was well taken at short slip. This gentleman ran Mr Wood rather close for the honour of top scorer, the last-named being eventually run out for a well-played 77. The tenth wicket fell for 252.

Sussex went in, and when stumps were drawn it looked as though they stood every chance of successfully rivalling the large total made by their opponents.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 12)

Heavy as the scoring of Hampshire had been on Monday in the above match at Brighton, that of Surrey yesterday proved more so, as at the close of their innings they had a balance of 131 runs in their favour. Hampshire started a second venture, and when stumps were drawn Sussex had the easy task left them of getting 20 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 11)

When play ceased in this match at Brighton, on Tuesday, Sussex only wanted 13 runs to insure victory and an innings in which to obtain them. Although rain fell fast yesterday Humphrey turned out in the field and the requisite number of runs were obtained without mishap. Sussex, therefore, won by ten wickets, the winning hit being an on drive by Mr Ellis for four.

17 June: MIDDLESEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2368.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 10)

In this match at Lord's, yesterday, Middlesex, who had won the toss, sent in Messrs I D Walker and A J Webbe, to the bowling of Mr Evans (pavilion end) and Mr Jellicoe. The start was cautious; then Mr Webbe made a cut for four. This was quickly supplemented by some very free hitting, the most noteworthy item being a leg hit for five by Mr Webbe.

At 59 Mr Webbe was clean bowled. Mr Walker's downfall came soon afterwards, caught at point. Neither Mr Studd nor Mr Pearson could emulate the performances of their two predecessors. Mr Vernon batted with great freedom, and carried off the palm with a well-played 45. Mr Francis also batted well, and the last wicket fell for 210. Time, 4.45.

The batting of Oxford proved by no means of a brilliant character, and at the close of the day five wickets were down for 69 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 12)

From the appearance of Thursday's play at Lord's it seemed doubtful whether the Dark Blues would be able to avert the follow-on. Mr Fowler batted with such vigour that these doubts were soon set at rest; and to his efforts may be attributed the fact that this was avoided. He kept, indeed, the batting to himself, and when the County entered upon their second venture they had only 66 runs to the good.

The Oxford fielding, which on the first day had been of a rather loose character, improved most materially, and from their style yesterday in this respect there is not the slightest doubt that on a dry wicket they are capable of rendering a really good account of themselves. The bowling of Mr Evans was of a most effective character. The captain of the Middlesex team was, after one of his best innings, disposed of in a somewhat extraordinary manner. In going out to a delivery of Mr Evans's, he missed it, and the ball went against the wicket-keeper's pads, rebounded and caused him to be stumped. Mr Francis made some wonderfully good drives, and the innings closed for 211.

The University had now 277 to obtain to avert defeat, and when stumps were drawn had lost two wickets for 69 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 June, page 13)

The rain of Saturday morning caused the resumption of the above match at Lord's to be delayed until nearly a quarter past 1. Oxford, who had commenced their second innings on the previous evening with 277 to get to win, had lost two wickets for 68. Mr Evans, the not out, resumed batting with Mr Evelyn. The bowlers were Messrs Walker and Henery.

The start was very unsatisfactory, as at 72 Mr Evans was stumped. Mr Patterson came, and 16 were added before the dismissal of Mr Evelyn. At 96 Mr Thornton was bowled. Half the wickets were now down. Messrs Greene and Patterson caused the fieldsmen some alarm and the bowling to be twice

changed before they were parted, which was done by the last-named being clean bowled at 117. Of the remaining batsmen, Mr Fowler and Mr Colebrooke hit so determinedly that the hopes of the university were raised considerably. These two gentlemen, however, did not receive much support from the rest of the team, and the last wicket fell for 225 runs.

From the full score it will be seen that Middlesex won by 51 runs. Umpires, West and Mycroft.

17 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2369.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 10)

The first trial of the Cambridge Eleven on a London ground began yesterday at Kennington Oval, when they met the county of Surrey. The University, having won the toss, went in first, the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Whitfeld being placed in opposition to Potter and Barratt.

The last-named batsman, having made a couple, received his dismissal in the opening over – clean bowled. Mr A G Steel, the captain of the eleven, came next. He obtained more runs than the rest of his companions put together, until at length he tried to hit a ball of Potter's, missed it and was bowled. His really superb innings consisted of one six (leg hit), two fives, ten fours, six threes, 11 twos &c. Mr Studd's performance is noteworthy, as he saw no fewer than six other batsmen disposed of and then remained unconquered. The last wicket fell for 199.

Surrey went in, and when stumps were drawn three batsmen were disposed of for 43 runs. Umpires, Watts and Street.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 12)

This match was continued yesterday at the Oval. Humphrey (not out overnight) again appeared at the wicket and was accompanied by Mr Bush, who before a run was made retired – leg before. Mr Lindsay joined Humphrey. The latter, after 21 runs had been added, fell to Mr C T Studd. Read succeeded, but did not stay long, being bowled by Mr Steel at 65.

Shortly after this Mr Lindsay returned the ball to Mr Steel, who, however, missed it, and 80 was telegraphed before Potter was dismissed by Mr Foley. One more only was made and Pooley retired – run out. At 94 Mr Lindsay was caught at short mid-off. Among his hits were two fours, one three and five twos. The innings closed for 115.

A "follow on" by Surrey resulted, but with no better fortune. Blamires was caught at 12 at slip, and at the same total Mr Lucas was taken at wicket. The score only advanced another dozen when Jupp again over-reached and was promptly despatched by the wicket-keeper. Mr Shuter next batted, but his middle stump was soon taken. Humphrey and Mr Lindsay now made a stand, and it was not until 75 runs were made that the former gave place to Mr Bush – leg before wicket. Mr Lindsay was caught at slip with the total at 86; and Read alone made any score worth mentioning. He was the last to be dismissed, caught at wicket. His hits included one 5, one 4, one 3 and two 2's . . .

At ten minutes to 6 Cambridge went in with 38 runs to get to win, and commenced batting with the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Whitfeld, Blamires and Potter bowling. At 7 Mr Whitfeld, having made six runs out of that score, was bowled by Blamires, and only half a dozen more were added when the Hon Ivo Bligh was bowled. Mr Exham was soon got rid of. Messrs Jones and C T Studd proved quite masters of the attack and obtained the requisite number of runs, the winning hit being made by Mr Studd a few minutes before 7. From the full score attached it will be seen that Cambridge won by seven wickets.

17 June: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2367.html)

Day 1 – no report found

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 12)

This match, commenced at Old Trafford, near Manchester, on Thursday, was continued yesterday. Nottingham have now 100 runs to obtain and seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 June, page 13)

When this match was resumed on Saturday at Manchester, Notts required 101 runs to win and had seven wickets to fall. At 12.40 Oscroft and Barnes restarted the batting, opposed by Watson and Barlow. These batsmen succeeded in raising the score to 51, when rain stopped play.

After a delay of three-quarters of an hour the players again appeared, and at 59 Oscroft fell to a catch at wicket. Flowers then went to the assistance of Barnes, and runs came so quickly that all doubts about the result were set at rest. The latter was at last stumped. When Gunn joined Flowers only 11 were wanted to win, and these were soon secured, the match at 4.20 ending in a victory for Nottinghamshire by five wickets.

21 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2371.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 June, page 10)

Cambridge were put in opposition to a fairly strong team at Lord's yesterday. Marylebone won the toss and at once entered on their defence, Mr Lucas and Barnes having to face the attacks of Messrs Steel and Morton. Runs came at a very sluggish pace, and when nine only had been made, Mr Steel clean-bowled Barnes.

Mr Pearson joined Mr Lucas and the hitting improved; so much so, indeed, that a two-fold change was resorted to, Mr Morton giving way to Mr Wilson and Mr Steel to Mr C T Studd. This did not make much impression, as Mr Pearson made eight by a couple of drives off the last-named bowler. Then, however, he gave an opportunity to Mr Steel at mid-off, which was let pass by. Other changes were tried, but, with the exception of another chance – this time to slip – by Mr Pearson, the batsmen did not seem at all disconcerted, and when luncheon was announced 97 were recorded for the loss of one wicket only.

After the usual interval a separation was quickly effected, as at 105 Mr Lucas was clean bowled. Two wickets were now down. The next two batsmen were soon disposed of – Mr Vernon clean bowled at 112, while three runs later Mr Pearson returned the ball. Mr Ridley hit away in a free style, but neither Mr J E K Studd nor Mr H Ross stayed long with him. He was then, however, joined by Pilling, and the score was carried along at a more rapid rate, as, despite several variations in the attack, they put on 35 runs before Pilling played back to the bowler. Seven for 161. The three remaining wickets only added eight runs apiece, and when Mr Ridley was bowled the innings closed for a total of 185 . . .

Cambridge commenced batting, but so far as they have gone their efforts were rather weak. Mr Steel played a fine innings of 51 before being stumped, and when play ceased for the day four wickets were down for 78 runs. Umpires, Nixon and Wild.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 June, page 10)

Although there was a somewhat persistent downfall of rain yesterday morning, it cleared off before noon, when hostilities between the above were resumed. It may be recollected that on the previous evening Marylebone had finished an innings for 185 and the Light Blues (after some extremely slow scoring) had lost four wickets for 78.

The University re-started their batting. Mr C T Studd, one of the not-outs, showed a very free style before falling an easy prey to long-field-off. Mr Ford made a very good defence, relieved by an occasion hard hit, until at length he was clean bowled. The innings closed for 138.

Marylebone now had 47 runs to the good, and sent in Mr Lucas and Barnes. These batsmen soon gave Cambridge considerable trouble. All the artifices of which the University were masters were brought against them, but all proved futile, until at 75 Mr Lucas was dextrously disposed of by mid-off. His venture comprised a square leg hit for five, two fours, one three, five twos &c. Barnes saw two more of his side dismissed, and then had the

misfortune to be run out, having contributed two fours, four threes, four twos and singles. Shaw carried out his bat for an excellently played 19, and the innings closed at 5.30 for 125.

Cambridge now wanted 172 runs to win, and at the end of the day had lost three wickets for 40.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 June, page 13)

At the conclusion of the second day's play in this match at Lord's, the result may fairly be said to have hung in the balance. Cambridge were left with 133 runs to win and seven wickets with which to get them – a task which, considering the batsmen they had left, should not have been difficult.

Mr C T Studd, the not out, had Mr Steel for a companion. The latter had carried off the palm in the first venture, and repeated this feat in the second. Having been deprived of the company of Mr C T Studd at 52, he was joined by the Hon Ivo Bligh. The pair succeeded in carrying the total to 92 before Mr Steel succumbed to the bowler. Five wickets were now down. Mr Bligh was disposed of at 103. The four remaining wickets only averaged four runs apiece, and the innings thus terminated for 123.

The full score appended will show that Marylebone were victors by 49 runs .
. .

21 June: DERBYSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2370.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 June, page 10)

These counties were placed in antagonism yesterday at Derby. The home team were successful in the toss, and shortly after 12 o'clock Mr Shuter and Rigley were at the wickets, opposed by Lillywhite and Mr Sclater. The professional was clean bowled at 7, and Mr Shuker, who, with Mr Barrington, brought on a change in the attack, was caught at slip at 22.

Mr Smith aided Mr Barrington in carrying the total to 49, when the latter was clean bowled. Mr Smith and Foster infused some life into the game, until at last the former was taken at wicket and the professional caught by the bowler. Before luncheon six batsmen were dismissed for 107 runs. After the interval the four outstanding wickets fell for an additional 23, the innings terminating at 3.20.

Sussex now went in, but not much progress was made until Charlwood commenced batting. He quickly ran up the score, but at last succumbed to Platts's bowling. At the end of the day the visitors had succeeded in gaining one run in advance of their rivals.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 June, page 10)

The weather was dull and gloomy at Derby yesterday, when this match was resumed. A difference only of nine runs existed at the close of an innings each. Derbyshire improved considerably in their second venture.

Day 3 - no report found

24 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2372.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 10)

The last university trial match prior to their encounter with each other on Monday next began yesterday at Lord's, when Oxford were pitted against the Club and Ground. Marylebone, successful in the toss, elected to bat. Mr Russel and Barnes faced the attacks of Messrs Jellicoe and Evans.

The professional cut a ball rather loosely, and slip let it escape him; from this hit five runs were made. For this indulgence the Dark Blues played most dearly. Barnes never gave another opportunity, and saw the whole of his side despatched. Repeated changes were resorted to, but no fewer than 74 runs were accumulated before Mr Russel retired, clean bowled. Among his hits were five fours, two threes and four twos.

Midwinter filled the vacancy, and at 187 was bowled. These two wickets proved far more productive than the remaining eight. Mr Vernon was caught at point, Flowers was clean bowled, Mr Tylecote was taken in the long field, both Messrs Hone and Foljambe were bowled, Pilling and Shaw were caught at wicket, and Morley fell a victim to the same fieldsman. Total, 236.

Rain prevented Oxford proceeding far with their batting, and when stumps were drawn two wickets were down for 69 runs. Umpires, Farrands and Mycroft.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 12)

Although the heavy score made by Marylebone led most people to expect that there would be a draw in their favour, few were prepared for the poor batting of Oxford at Lord's yesterday. The University had to "follow on," and although they averted a single inning's defeat they were ultimately beaten by nine wickets.

28 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2374.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 10)

Of the many crowds that have assembled at Lord's, that which congregated yesterday to witness the annual match between Oxford and Cambridge is thought by some of the oldest habitués of the ground to have been the largest. There was the usual circle of drags, carriages &c., and locomotion, even during play, was extremely difficult.

Since the contest was instituted in 1829, 45 matches have been played, and of these (prior to the present game) Cambridge claim 22 victories against 21 by Oxford; in 1827 and 1844 the matches were drawn. Cambridge came to town with a much better reputation than their rivals, and, taken all round, they may be fairly considered to have deserved it. Yet the element of uncertainty so characteristic of the game exists to a superlative degree in the teams which this year do battle for their Universities.

At one time yesterday it seemed as though Cambridge were going to collapse miserably, and at another it looked highly probable that Oxford would have to follow on. Therefore, although the Light Blues have a balance in their favour, yesterday's play would leave one to suppose that the match at present is a far more open affair than had been anticipated.

The high winds of Sunday night and the early morning of Monday had a very drying effect on the wicket, and there could have been little hesitation on the part of Cambridge, who had won the toss, as to what they should do. At 12 o'clock precisely the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Whitfeld were put on their defence. Mr Evans opened the attack from the Pavilion wicket, and with his second ball he struck Mr Whitfeld's off stump. Mr Steel, who was warmly greeted by the spectators, now made his appearance.

Mr Harrison was intrusted with the ball from the Nursery end. Mr Bligh, in the third over of the match, made the first four - in playing forward to a ball of Mr Evans's he was fortunate enough to send it behind the wicket. A couple of runs were added, when Mr Steel gave a somewhat difficult return chance to Mr Harrison. Profiting by this escape, the Cambridge captain hit with considerable freedom. The next 18 were all from his own bat, the principal items being square leg hits for four and two, and a late cut for three. Mr Bligh made a lucky cut through the slips for four, but was then deprived of the company of Mr Steel, who tried to send a ball of Mr Harrison's to leg, but played it late, and it broke into his wicket. Two batsmen for 29.

Mr Jones came, and at the end of half an hour it was found that each minute had yielded a run. A couple were added to this number, when a capitally pitched ball of Mr Evans's shot under the last comer's bat into his wicket. Mr C T Studd secured a single, but then had his middle stump struck. Four wickets for 34 runs by no means came up to the expectations of the friends of the Light Blues. Mr G B Studd was next deputed to aid Mr Bligh. The latter, who had not seemed at all comfortable up to this point, now improved to a marvellous extent; but although he played the bowling with more confidence runs were not made very quickly, and an hour was occupied in obtaining the first 50. Just prior to this Mr G B Studd had given a chance to the bowler.

As the batsmen were getting well set, an alteration in the attack was tried, and Mr Thornton superseded Mr Evans. Ten runs were now made in two overs off Mr Harrison, and at 68 he made way for Mr M'Lachlan. As no impression appeared to have been made, however, Mr Evans resumed at 77. The rate of run-getting improved, but only slightly; 80 were recorded as the result of an hour and a half's play. The score advanced slowly, and at 87 Mr Evans crossed over; while Mr Harrison took his place at the Nursery wicket. Off the first-named bowler Mr Bligh now effected the finest hit yet made - a very clean off-drive for four. The 100 were signalled at 1.55. Mr M'Lachlan bowled the last over before luncheon, when the score stood at 106.

After an interval of 40 minutes Messrs Harrison and Evans resumed bowling, and it was not long before Mr G B Studd stopped the ball with his leg. Half the wickets, 120 runs. Mr Wilson came to the assistance of Mr Bligh, who was at length taken at sharp mid on. Among his hits were four fours and six twos. Six for 132. The last four wickets only added 34 runs between them. Mr Ford was bowled off stump. Messrs Lancashire and Morton both had their leg stumps upset, and Mr Foley was clean bowled. Duration of innings, three hours, 25 minutes. Four bowlers were tried - Mr Evans took six wickets . . .

After the customary rest between the innings, Messrs Trevor and Colebrooke were opposed by Messrs Steel and Morton. The Oxford batsmen began hitting in a much more lively manner than their rivals had been. Twenty-two runs were made in ten overs, Mr Trevor having driven each bowler for four each. Mr Wilson then relieved Mr Morton, but Mr Steel effected a separation at 25 by inducing Mr Colebrooke to step out to a ball, from which he was stumped. Mr Evans led off with a leg hit for four, but he soon lost Mr Trevor, who was easily stumped. Mr Greene, the captain, appeared, and at 36 Mr Morton resumed. This proved a very wise move, as three batsmen quickly fell to him. Mr Evans had hit middle stump shot out of the ground at 44; Mr Thornton was lean bowled at 50, and Mr Patterson served in the same manner by the first ball he received. Five wickets down for 50 runs - 70 behind the number secured by their rivals at the same stage of their innings.

Mr Hirst joined Mr Greene, and the scoring received a decided check, but not wicket could be got, and Mr C T Studd relieved Mr Steel at 52, while, without alteration, Mr Steel came on again. No fewer than 11 maiden overs were sent down in succession from the Pavilion wicket, but then the scoring improved. At 79 Mr Morton gave up the ball to Mr Wilson. The next hit of interest was an on-drive for four, which brought Mr C T Studd on in place of Mr Steel. Mr Greene drove the ball to the on for four in the first over, but in the third he was out, 1-b-w; six for 80.

Now came a most melancholy collapse of the next three wickets. Mr Morton, who had supplanted Mr Wilson, took them with successive balls. Messrs Fowler and Harrison were clean bowled and Mr Evelyn hit the wicket with his leg. Nine for 81. When Mr M'Lachlan joined Mr Hirst six were wanted to avert a "follow on." Mr Steel went on again at 81 in the room of Mr C T Studd. An off-drive by Mr M'Lachlan for four and a cut for two by the same batsman prevented the impending catastrophe.

A separation should have occurred at 88. Mr M'Lachlan returned the ball, and many people thought Mr Steel caught it; while some of the Light Blues started to leave the field, but the umpire ruled that it was not out. The two Dark Blues now grew more confident, and delighted the company with some free, if somewhat lucky, hitting. Mr Hirst and Mr M'Lachlan each made a cut for four, and an off-drive for three by the latter brought the three

figures on the board. Four changes were tried before this pair could be parted. Mr Hirst made three cuts for four each, and also secured an on-drive for the same number. At length Mr M'Lachlan, who had been again missed at cover point at 114, was clean bowled, and the innings brought to an end for 132. Time, 6.38. Five bowlers were tried - three with success. Mr Morton took six wickets . . .

With 34 to the good, Cambridge went in a second time, and when stumps were drawn had gained five runs without loss of wicket. Umpires, West and Wheeler.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 10)

Large as the attendance at Lord's had been on Monday, in the opinion of many good judges of numbers it was larger still yesterday to witness the play that finished the University match. The result, as it turned out, was in keeping with what may be called "public form;" but Cambridge had much the better of the luck, as in each innings Oxford had to bat after being fatigued by fielding under a broiling sun. Neither team came up to the mark in the latter department of the game, but Oxford were much more erratic in this respect than their rivals, to which cause in a great measure their defeat may be attributed. At any rate, had the Dark Blues shown a little more smartness in the field, the result would have been much narrower.

Messrs Wilson and Whitfeld first withstood the attacks of Messrs Harrison and Evans. The cricket for some time was of a tedious character, and no hit yielded anything more than a single in the first 20 overs. Mr Whitfeld then effected a cut for two. The batsmen, although not scoring quickly, seemed to be getting their eye well in. With the score at 50 Mr Wilson fell to a return match - low down. It was thought that Mr Steel would probably offer a stubborn resistance. The Cambridge captain did not, however, prove so troublesome as had been anticipated, owing to a fortunate piece of stumping; Mr Steel played very hard forward to a delivery from Mr Evans, and overbalanced. Although the wicket-keeper failed to hold the ball, it rebounded from his hands on to his stumps and shook the bails off. Two for 58 runs.

The Hon Ivo Bligh supplied the vacancy, and a leg-bye was the only item out of the next seven overs. Mr Bligh now made the first quartet of the morning - an off-drive for four - and the next ball he hit in a similar manner with a like result. Mr Fowler, whose wicket-keeping had not been at all good, atoned for it in some measure by making a smart catch, and thus disposed of Mr Whitfeld. Three for 76. The two next wickets were soon captured - Mr Bligh caught by the long stop, who ran almost up to deep slip to get at the ball, and Mr Jones easily taken at point.

The brothers Studd were now in partnership. An off-drive for four by each batsman, and a leg hit by Mr C T Studd caused Mr Harrison to resign in favour of Mr Thornton. In the second over of the change the same batsman made an off-drive for four, and shot the total past the 100. Mr Greene now went on, and at 111 Mr C T Studd was missed at forward short leg by Mr Evelyn, and his brother also had an escape at the hands of the same fieldsman. Mr G B Studd evinced his thankfulness in the next over by making two leg hits for four. Total, 127.

Luncheon having been discussed, the batsmen re-entered on their defence at 2.40. Messrs Harrison and Evans bowled, but the former soon gave way to Mr

Thornton, while Mr M'Lachlan displaced Mr Evans. The latter alteration soon had the desired effect, Mr G B Studd being clean bowled. His hits consisted of six fours (straight and on drives, three leg hits and a cut), one three, one two &c. Six for 147. Mr Lancashire came, and again the batting got the upper hand. The new arrival made a couple of leg hits for four.

With nimble steps the total advanced to 205, despite no fewer than four variations in the attack, when the greatest enthusiasm was evoked by a grand running catch (made sideways) at long-leg, by Mr Hirst, which disposed of Mr C T Studd. Among his hits were five fours (two off drives and two leg hits), four threes and four twos. Seven for 205 runs. Mr Ford succumbed to the bowler without alteration in the total, and made way for Mr Morton. Sixteen were added when Mr Lancashire's leg stump was upset, while 11 runs afterwards, Mr Foley was clean bowled and the innings closed. Total, 232.

When Oxford commenced their second venture they had the extremely difficult task of getting 267 runs to win. Whatever hopes their most sanguine admirers could have had were quickly dispelled by the utter inability of the early batsmen to cope with the Light Blue bowlers. Messrs Patterson and Trevor were sent in to face the attacks of Messrs Steel and Morton. Both the Oxford men were quickly bowled, Mr Trevor at 4 and Mr Patterson at 9. Mr Hirst and Mr Greene advanced the score to 32, the former making a cut for four and a snick for the same number, before he was well taken at slip. A single only had been added when Mr Greene was run out, while six runs afterwards Mr Thornton, who had made an off drive for four and a single, was caught at cover point. Half the wickets were thus lost for 39 runs, or less than a seventh of the required number.

Messrs Colebrooke and Fowler were now in possession, and some very lively play ensued. The latter having escaped being caught behind the bowler through two fieldsmen running instead of one, hit away with great freedom. He made, among others, two square leg hits and two on-drives for four each, while Mr Colebrooke claimed a cut for a like figure, and at 87 Mr Wilson displaced Mr Morton. Then Mr Colebrooke sent a ball of Mr Steel's to square leg for four. A little quietude in the run-getting followed, when an off-drive for four by Mr Fowler brought the "100" on at 6.7. This batsman did not long survive, however, as at 103 he was caught from a "skyer" at cover point. Three runs afterwards Mr Evelyn fell to a catch behind the bowler. Seven down.

Mr Evans joined Mr Colebrooke, and made seven in one over of Mr Morton's by a square leg hit and an on drive. Another cut by the same batsman was soon made, so at 131 Mr Ford superseded Mr Wilson, and in his first over Mr Evans was bowled, and two runs after Mr M'Lachlan was out leg before wicket. Nine for 134. Mr Harrison and Mr Colebrooke sent the score to 151, when a catch at mid-off disposed of the former and the innings closed, Mr Colebrooke carrying out his bat for a well-played 34. From the full score appended it will be seen that the 48th Inter-University match was won by Cambridge by 115 runs.

28 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2373.html)

Day 1 – scorecard but no report

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 10)

This match, which was commenced at the Old Trent-bridge at Nottingham on Monday, was concluded yesterday in favour of the home eleven by two wickets. At one time, indeed, it looked as if the fine bowling of Peate and Bates (the former of whom took in all seven wickets for 79 runs, and the latter 11 wickets for 67 runs) would be successful in achieving a victory. Morley took 13 wickets for 83 and Shaw five wickets for 53 runs.

1 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2375.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 July, page 10)

Heavy rain yesterday at noon prevented the excellent teams chosen by the Surrey executive to represent the amateurs and professionals taking the field until 10 minutes past 3 o'clock. The Players then went to the wickets, represented by Ulyett and Jupp. Messrs W G Grace and Morton took charge of the early bowling.

Runs were obtained at a sure, if slow, rate. Ulyett made an on-drive for five and Jupp sent the ball to the off for four. The total advanced to 27, when Mr Lucas relieved Mr Morton. Ulyett having driven Mr Grace to the on for five that gentleman handed the ball to Mr Strachan. A separation was effected at the opposite wicket, however, as Jupp played the ball back to the bowler. One for 46 runs. Barnes filled the vacancy, but when a dozen more had been obtained a catch at slip got rid of Ulyett.

Lockwood and Barnes soon gave the gentlemen considerable anxiety. The "100" was hoisted at 5.25, and when 21 more had been made an excellent right-handed catch at mid-off disposed of Lockwood. Three wickets, 121 runs. This good start caused the Players to be in great favour with the spectators, but this was somewhat dispelled by the poor performance of the succeeding batsmen. Barnes, who had given a couple of chances (one rather easy at slip), was eventually clean bowled. He had made more than a third of the runs by a four, nine threes, 11 twos and singles. No fewer than three of the succeeding batsmen were despatched without scoring, and when play ceased at 7 o'clock the score stood as follows: . . [Players 172/9].

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 July, page 12)

Owing to a late start, rendered necessary by the wet weather, little progress was made in this match at Kennington Oval on Thursday. The Players, who went in first, had not completed an innings when play ceased. They had, however, one wicket to fall, with 172 runs totalled. Yesterday three balls sufficed to finish the Players' innings, which realized 173.

At half-past 2 the Gentlemen commenced batting, with Messrs Grace and Lucas, opposed to whom were Shaw and Morley. The wicket suited the slow bowler admirably, and no runs could be made off him. When eight only had been registered, a catch at slip disposed of Mr Lucas, and at 13 Mr Grace fell a victim to the wicket keeper. Thus two of the best wickets had gone. Messrs Penn and Shuter held out hopes of improvement. The latter, indeed, secured 19 runs in four overs from Morley. This brought on Bates in the fast bowler's place, and the young Notts [sic] representative's third over proved fatal to Mr Penn - caught at the wicket. Three for 44, and at the same total Mr Shuter was caught by deep third match.

A neat catch at cover point got rid of Mr Hornby, when 14 runs had been added, and two later Lord Harris was finally caught at slip. Messrs Vernon and Blight while associated improved matters, but at last the former, who had been previously let off by Bates, the bowler, put the ball up at mid-on, which was secured. The remainder of the wickets averaged but two runs, the innings closing at a quarter to 5. Shaw's bowling was very remarkable. It analyses thus: - 38 overs (31 maidens), 17 runs and seven wickets.

The gentlemen, having thus saved a follow on by one run only, took the field at 10 minutes past 5, leaving the bowling in the hands of Messrs Lucas and W G Grace. Jupp and Ulyett, as in the first innings, began the second essay of the Players. The first-named played with exceeding steadiness, while Ulyett seemed comparatively indifferent to the treacherous state of the wicket. Having made 30 of the first 36 runs, the Yorkshireman was caught at forward short leg, and Barnes joined Jupp. With the score at 42 the new-comer fell to a catch at mid-off. Lockwood succeeded.

At 6 o'clock rain temporarily stopped play, and it would have been as well had it continued, for at 6.30, when the game was resumed, until 7 o'clock, the time for drawing stumps, six wickets were lost for an addition of 31 runs only.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 July, page 12)

The position of affairs in this match at the close of the second day's play was one of considerable interest. The Players, who had a balance of 79 runs on the first innings, had lost eight wickets in their second essay for 73 runs. Thus they were 152 runs "on" with two wickets still to fall. Under ordinary circumstances the prospects of the Gentlemen would have been voted good, but, with the ground all in favour of the bowlers, it seemed not at all uncertain that the professionals had already secured more runs than their opponents would be able to obtain. This state of things induced many in the hopes of witnessing an exciting finish to brave the elements and put in an appearance at Kennington-oval on Saturday afternoon.

The game was resumed at ten minutes past 12. In 20 minutes exactly that number of runs were secured, and then the players' innings closed. Messrs Lucas and Morton had both bowled with effect, the former taking four wickets for 26 runs and the Oxonian six for 41.

Wanting 173 runs to win, the Gentlemen began their somewhat doubtful task at half-past 12 with Messrs Lucas and Grace. Shaw and Morley opposed them, and it was quickly apparent that the attack was much favoured by the treacherous state of the ground. Only three runs had been scored in ten overs, when Mr Lucas played a ball on to his wicket, and with twice the number registered Messrs Grace, Penn and Shuter also figured on the dismissed list.

Mr Hornby and Lord Harris were than associated. Five overs averaged five runs; but from the first ball of the next Mr Harris was caught behind the bowler from a lofty drive. The Hon Ivo Bligh succeeded, and the batting gained the mastery for some time. Bates and Barnes were tried in place of the early bowlers, but the score reached 64 before the Kentish amateur's dismissal was effected by a catch at short slip. With the fall of this, the sixth wicket, the interval for luncheon occurred.

In consequence of heavy rain, the customary three-quarters of an hour was extended until a quarter-past 4. The wet had not only the effect of delaying the game, but, to the discomfiture of the Players, rendered the wicket much easier for the batsmen than previously. This was shown by the free mode of hitting adopted by both Mr Hornby and Mr Vernon. In nine overs 28 runs were accumulated. Over anxiety to score on the part of the Lancashire representative the lost Mr Vernon his position. On Mr Strachan coming in Mr Hornby again set to work with a will, and principally through

his fine batting the total rather rapidly was swelled to 124. Mr Strachan's off stump was at this stage lowered, and Mr Tylecote occupied the vacated spot.

With two wickets still intact the Gentlemen required 49 runs, and it seemed by no means improbable that they would get them. The disposal of Mr Hornby at 127, however, practically determined the result. Messrs Morton and Tylecote played with great care, but at 135 the latter was caught from a long drive to the on, and the Players secured victory – the first for a long period – by 37 runs. It will be seen from the score appended that Mr Hornby made more than half the runs in the Gentlemen's second innings.

5 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2376.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 July, page 5)

The exciting conclusion to the match under the above title on Saturday at Kennington Oval evidently led many persons to expect that an equally interesting game would be witnessed yesterday at Lord's. There were no fewer than five alterations in the Gentlemen's eleven from that which played at Kennington Oval last week, the Hon A Lyttelton and Messrs A G Steel, T S Pearson, A H Evans and H Rotherham taking the places of Lord Harris, Messrs Morton, Strachan, Tylecote and Vernon. In the Players there were only two variations, Oscroft and Selby playing instead of Jupp and Lockwood.

The Gentlemen, who had won the toss, sent in Dr Grace and Mr Lucas to the attacks of Morley and Shaw. Two only had been obtained when the last-named batsman was clean bowled. Mr Penn aided in taking the total to 23, when he was captured at long-on. The next comer, Mr Shuter, only remained while 13 were added, when he was clean bowled. Mr Hornby joined Mr Grace, and the batting soon triumphed. At 45 Morley resigned the ball to Emmett. No fewer than three changes were resorted to before Mr Hornby was despatched through being too venturesome. Four wickets, 96 runs. The Hon A Lyttelton succeeded, and a few minutes later the 100 was reached. Four only had been added when luncheon intervened.

Quickly after resumption the Hon A Lyttelton fell to a catch at slip. The Hon Ivo Bligh came to the assistance of Dr Grace, and once more runs were freely obtained. At 136 Shaw relieved Barnes, and at 141 Ulyett did the same for Morley. The first-named change soon proved fatal to Dr Grace, who returned the ball. Six for 144. Mr Bligh was clean bowled soon afterwards. Messrs Pearson and Steel were now in company. The latter kept up his wicket until 156, when he was taken at cover point. Eight down.

Mr Evans made his appearance, and Mr Pearson hit the ball very smartly to the off for four. At 179 Mr Evans gave an unaccepted chance to the wicketkeeper, and the batsmen kept undisturbed possession of their positions until at a quarter to 5 the "200" were signalled. Bates went on at 209 and Barnes at 225. Mr Pearson was clean bowled a run later, and without any alteration Mr Evans, who had made an off-drive for four, suffered a like fate. Total, 226.

Oscroft and Ulyett then went in on behalf of the Players. Messrs Steel and Rotherham bowled. Before a run had been made Oscroft was out, leg before wicket; and at 8 Ulyett retired, clean bowled. Barnes and Barlow were then together. The score advanced to 30, when Barlow ran himself out. Three runs afterwards Selby was clean bowled - a fate which Bates suffered at the hands of Mr Rotherham at 35. Scotton was bowled by the first ball he received. Six wickets, 37 runs.

Barnes and Emmett were next together. At 53 the former played into the wicket-keeper's hands. Pilling came, and made an on-drive for four and a snick for a like number. At the finish of the day seven wickets were lost for 73 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 July, page 5)

From the very poor form shown by the Players on the opening day at Lord's, it was fully expected that a severe defeat was in store for them. At one time yesterday it looked as though these expectations would be fulfilled, as in their second venture 29 runs were required, and four wickets left to get them, to avert an single innings defeat.

Now came a most extraordinary turn in the game. Bates, except for a difficult return chance, played a grand innings. He was well aided by Pilling, and the Gentlemen were set a task of 128 to win. The weather proved dull, but the company was again large.

Emmett and Pilling first withstood the attacks of Messrs Rotherham and Steel. The Yorkshireman made a cut for four, and at 82 Dr Grace relieved Mr Rotherham, while half-a-dozen runs later Mr Steel gave way to Mr Evans. In the first over of the latter change Emmett was clean bowled. Eight wickets, 88 runs. Mr Rotherham resumed at 93, and with the first two balls of his second over he got rid of Shaw and Morley. Total, 95.

The Players had to follow on with a deficit of 131 runs. Oscroft and Ulyett was opposed by Messrs Rotherham and Steel. The start was bad, as at 7 a smart piece of stumping got rid of Ulyett. Barnes made a cut for four, and soon afterwards gave a difficult chance to long slip, of which Mr Evans failed to avail himself. Oscroft made a four to leg and Barnes "snicked" the ball for the same number, when the last-named gave a very hard chance at wicket. Mr Rotherham gave place to Dr Grace, and Barnes was bowled at 42, Oscroft having made an off-drive for four. Two wickets, 42 runs. Barlow came, and at 54 should have been run out, while shortly afterwards he had another let-off at wicket. At 69, Oscroft skied the ball to point, where it was held. Selby succeeded, and at luncheon the total stood at 69.

Three-quarters of an hour having been allowed, Messrs Rotherham and Steel continued the bowling. The three following batsmen soon went - Selby caught at wicket, and Barlow and Scotton both bowled. Emmett and Bates were next partnered. The bowling was then changed, but a leg-hit for four caused the runs to be rubbed off at 3.45. Ten had been put on when a curious incident dismissed Emmett. He played a ball of Mr Evans's, and the ball went off the wicket-keeper's head to long-stop, who caught it. Seven wickets, 141.

Pilling had not long joined Bates when the latter gave a hard return chance to Dr Grace. This turned out to be a bad job for the Gentlemen, as amid the most hearty enthusiasm 82 were put on before the downfall of the next wicket. At 143 Mr Steel superseded Mr Evans. Bates then made an on-drive for four, and his companion sent the ball to square-leg with the same result. Mr Rotherham was tried at 154, and 10 runs after Mr Evans went on. As the batsmen seemed undisturbed, however, the bowlers crossed over. Bates made a couple of on drives for four, and at 188 Mr Steel went on again in lieu of Mr Rotherham.

A leg-hit, from which four were run, fell to the lot of Pilling, and at 4.55 the 200 was reached. Bates now made 12 by three on-drives; but at length, when 223 were secured, he fell to a sharp catch at mid-on. Among his hits were eight fours, five threes and eight twos. Pilling was joined by Shaw, and at 234 Mr Lucas displaced Mr Steel, and his second ball Pilling returned to him. Shaw made a straight drive for four and a cut for three. At 5.50 Morley was clean bowled and the innings ended for 248.

The Gentlemen required 128 to win, and sent in Dr Grace and Mr Lucas. Shaw's first 14 overs were all maidens, and except an off-drive for four to Dr Grace, little was done with Morley. Ten runs took 35 minutes to get. Ulyett then went for the last-named, and with his second ball shot Mr Lucas's stump clean out of the ground. Mr Shuter came next. At 7 o'clock, 17 runs were made without any other wicket having been captured.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 May, page 13)

The most sanguine admirers of the Players could hardly have expected that they were likely to score a victory at Lord's yesterday in this match. The morning certainly was damp and likely to suit Shaw's bowling. It had not much effect, however, on the wickets, and after a gallant struggle the Players were defeated by five wickets.

When the game ceased on Tuesday evening the Gentlemen had lost one wicket for 17 runs in their second venture, at the commencement of which they wanted 118 to win. Messrs Grace and Shuter resumed at 12.15. Morley and Shaw started the bowling. The score advanced to 26, when Mr Shuter played the ball on. Then Mr Penn came. At 35 Bates displaced Morley, and in his first over Mr Grace was taken at wicket - three for 36 runs. The Hon A Lyttelton joined Mr Penn, and the pair conducted the total to 69 before the last comer was well taken at short mid off. Four batsmen were now dismissed.

The Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Penn were now in company, and despite many changes they succeeded in getting to within two of the requisite number, when Mr Penn was easily taken at mid off. Among his hits were six fours, two threes and six twos. Mr Hornby came in, and at 1.52 Mr Bligh made an on-drive for a single, which won the match for the Gentlemen by five wickets. Umpires, West and Wild.

12 July: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2377.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 10)

Commenced at Lord's yesterday, considerable progress was made in this the last of the Middlesex home matches, and as matters stand at present an easy victory for the visiting county seems highly probable. Notts lost the toss and had first to take the field. Their rivals went in with Messrs Webbe and Walker, who had opposed to them Shaw and Morley.

From the sixth ball bowled, and without a run registered, Mr Walker was taken at cover point, and this proved but the forerunner of other and as serious disasters. At 9 Mr C T Studd was clean bowled; four runs later Mr Webbe met with a similar fate; at 24 Mr G B Studd, who had just reached the dignity of double figures, fell to one of the slows; and with 25 runs totalled the fifth wicket – that of Mr Vernon – was disposed of. But for Mr Pearson, who succeeded, by dint of careful play, in keeping one end up, a direful collapse would have been the result.

The next four wickets realized 17, a splendid right-hand catch at long-on disposing of Mr Thornton and earning for Shrewsbury much applause. At lunch-time – 2 o'clock – the score was 51 for nine wickets. Play was resumed at 2.35, and ten minutes sufficed to bring matters to a close for 62 runs. Mr Pearson, who gave one chance to Oscroft at point, carried his bat. Morley's bowling analysed 36 overs and three balls (19 maidens); 36 runs and eight wickets . . .

Nottinghamshire, at 3 o'clock, was represented by Shrewsbury and Oscroft, Mr C T Studd and Clarke having charge of the attack. Runs came at a very tardy pace, and only 15 were made when Oscroft was given out leg before wicket. Barnes, the next comer, stayed while eight runs were added, and then hit under a ball which Clarke, by running from short-leg to sharp square leg, secured. Daft was out in the same way as Oscroft at 29, and Selby joined Shrewsbury. An improvement was anticipated, but with the figures increased to 38, Shrewsbury was caught from a drive to long-on.

Four wickets were down when Scotton went to the assistance of Selby. Before a fifth fell Clarke tried his hand at the pavilion wicket, and Mr Ford went on in place of Mr Studd. The change was effected at 55, and at 68 a catch at long-on proved fatal to Scotton. Flowers joined Selby, and to the efforts of these two Nottinghamshire were indebted for more than a third of the runs obtained. The former was clean bowled at 86, but Flowers, in company with Gunn, took the total to 102. Gunn, whose first season it is with the county team, batted steadily, and made just half the runs scored while he was in. A rapidly rising ball defeated him at 117, the total for nine wickets. At five minutes to 6 the essay closed for 125 runs, Clarke having taken seven wickets for 51 runs.

With a balance of 63 runs on the wrong side, Middlesex commenced a second innings at a quarter past 6. The start was more promising than in the first venture, as Messrs Webbe and Walker were not separated until 24 runs were put on. By 7 o'clock, however, five wickets were down and 28 runs still required to save a single innings defeat.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 11)

Judging from the state of the game at the close of the first day, a speedy conclusion was naturally anticipated. Under these circumstances the small attendance at Lord's yesterday was not a matter for surprise. Mr Pearson, in company with Mr Thornton, resumed the batting of Middlesex, who still wanted 27 runs to save an innings defeat, and had five wickets with which to get them.

More than half the number were obtained before Mr Thornton was finely caught from a drive to long-on, but Mr J Studd did not render any assistance, and at 52 both the sixth and seventh wickets fell. Mr Ford joined Mr Pearson, and the arrears were rubbed off. Scarcely had this been done, however, when the last-comer was clean bowled. Eight for 64. Clarke succeeded, and at 70 had a life at the hands of Wild, who should have stumped him. This mistake cost Notts some trouble, as the bowling underwent some trouble before Clarke was got rid of. Nine for 94. It looked as though Mr Pearson would repeat his first innings performance, but shortly after Mr Robertson's appearance he hit a ball rather high t long slip which was not allowed to drop.

Thus the essay closed for a total of 95 runs, which left Notts 33 runs to get to win. A commencement was made with Oscroft and Gunn, who had opposed to them Mr Ford and Clarke. Gunn scored faster than his partner, but both played well, and at 15 Clarke crossed over, while Mr Studd took the position at the Pavilion wicket previously occupied by the professional. When but four runs were wanted Gunn played a ball back to the bowler. Shrewsbury came in and made the winning hit. From the score appended it will be seen that Nottinghamshire won by nine wickets.

12 July: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2379.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 10)

Although the weather was by no means so bright as could have been desired, a large number of persons put in an appearance at Brammall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, to witness the commencement of the match between the above-named counties. Lancashire were first to the wickets. A very poor show was made by the batsmen most depended upon for runs. Pilling and Briggs, however, came to the rescue, the former proving extremely useful and carrying his bat out for more than a third of the sum total of the innings.

On behalf of Yorkshire both Emmett and Ulyett batted in good style, the former being not out at the close of the day's play, when the home team's total for the loss of six wickets stood one run in advance of their rival's.

Day 2 - no report found

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 13)

The heavy storms which have visited various parts of the country during the past two days did not leave Yorkshire unmolested. Rain fell heavily on Tuesday afternoon at Sheffield, and continued yesterday with such persistency that the match between these two counties had to be abandoned.

12 July: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2378.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 10)

In delightful weather these counties commenced their first match of the season at Hove, Brighton, in the presence of a large number of spectators. Sussex won the toss, and, as the wickets were in good condition, they elected to take possession of them. Messrs Whitfeld and Ellis faced the bowling of Mr Cunliffe and O'Shaughnessy.

The first three wickets went for an average of a dozen runs apiece – all of them bowled by Mr Cunliffe. Messrs Ellis and Trevor then got together, and brought on several changes in the attack; but it was not until 83 had been obtained that Mr Trevor was bowled. Mr M P Lucas batted freely during the short time he was in, making three fours (drives) and two threes, when he was easily taken at long-off. Half the wickets, 113 runs. Mr Sclater filled the vacancy, and when luncheon was reached there were 127 runs registered.

After the interval Mr Ellis continued to hit freely, until at length he was clean bowled. He had gone in first and seen nine of his compeers dismissed, he having given two chances himself, which were unaccepted. Among his hits were one five, six fours, five threes and nine twos. The venture closed at 3.50 for 171 runs.

The start made by Kent was of a most unpromising character, as two wickets (Hearne's and O'Shaughnessy's) were captured for six runs. The Hon Ivo Bligh and Lord Harris soon improved the aspect of affairs. Both, however, should have been dismissed early in their innings at mid-on and cover-point respectively. As it was they took the total to 92 before Mr Bligh hid the wicket with his leg. His hits comprised a five, seven fours, two threes &c. Three wickets were now down. Lord Harris, who gave a second chance late in the innings, was ultimately stumped, having made two fives (cut and off-drive), four fours, three threes, five twos and singles. Four for 148 runs. The next three batsmen added 40 . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 11)

Lovely weather was again experienced on the Sussex county ground, Brighton, yesterday, when the above match was continued. The attendance was larger than on the preceding day, when Sussex had completed an innings for 171 and Kent had lost seven wickets for 194. The not-outs – Mr Jones and Henty – added 146 to the score. Mr Jones was clean bowled and Henty caught at cover-point by O'Shaughnessy, who was playing for Mr M P Lucas. The last wicket only added four runs. Total, 329.

The home team had the heavy debt of 158 to rub out when they started their second venture. Payne and Mr Ellis both went when four only were made. Messrs C J Lucas and Whitfeld caused several changes, and took the score to 41 before the former was dismissed by a very fine return catch. Three wickets, 43 runs. Nine runs only were added before the next two collapsed – Mr Whitfeld caught at short leg and Charlwood at point. Mr M P Lucas and Mr Trevor joined partnership, but at 72 a capital catch at long field on got rid of the former.

Mr Sclater next appeared, and he and Mr Trevor hit freely and well. The bowling was changed and rechanged, but it was not until 138 had been scored that Mr Sclater was clean bowled. Mr Trevor and Phillips averted the innings defeat, and before the latter was taken at short leg 40 runs were put on. The innings closed a few minutes before 7, Mr Trevor, who was heartily cheered for his well-played 103, being dismissed by a bailer.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 13)

An hour and five minutes proved sufficient to bring this match to a close yesterday on the county ground, Brighton, though at a greater cost to Kent than might have been expected. When play ceased on Tuesday evening, the visitors had 64 runs set them for victory, and an innings in which to get this number.

Play was continued at 11.5, and as four wickets went for 28, some of the Sussex people were in expectation of a close finish. Lord Harris, however, joined O'Shaughnessy, who hit clean and effectively, getting no less than six 4's (chiefly drives). It was left to Lord Harris to make the winning hit, which he did at 12.5. Kent thus won by six wickets. Umpires, Payne and Martingale.

LEICESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS (not first-class)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 10)

One of the most important of the Australian engagements saw a commencement at Leicester yesterday afternoon. The Colonials had opposed to them an eleven of the county which on their previous visit bid fair to run them a close race until a piece of good fortune turned the tide all in favour of the Australians.

Leicestershire had first to take the field, intrusting the early bowling to Rylott and Parnham. Bannerman and Murdoch started the batting. At 21 the former was driven on to his wicket, and Groube occupied the vacated spot. The defence proving obstinate, a change in the bowling was thought desirable at 45, and the wisdom of this tactic soon displayed itself, as in Bottomore's second over a catch at long leg disposed of Murdoch. M'Donnell, who succeeded, was got rid of in a similar manner at 60, and Slight failed to add to the score. Four down.

Blackham succeeded, and remained while 13 runs were put on. He then made was for Bonnor, who at 84 was bowled off his legs. Groube was then joined by Spofforth. Eight wickets were down for 120 runs, and the innings closed for an addition of 22. Leicestershire went in, but could do nothing with the bowling of Spofforth and Palmer, and at the close of the day had lost five wickets for 31 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 11)

At the close of the first day's play in this match, commenced at Leicester on Monday, matters presented a most one-sided aspect. The Australians had completed an innings for 142 runs, and their opponents had made but 31 for the loss of five wickets. Yesterday adverse weather was experienced, and it was not until five minutes past 3 that operations could be renewed. Even then the state of the ground depreciated the efforts of both bowlers and batsmen, although the latter succeeded exceedingly well.

The not outs were Messrs Blucke and Howe, who had to withstand the attack of Palmer and Spofforth. An addition of 13 having been made to the overnight total, a separation was effected, Blucke being clean bowled. The next two wickets proved profitless, and the innings closed for 95 runs.

The Colonials commenced their second innings with the batting of Bannerman and Murdoch, and at the end of the day's play had scored 66 without loss of wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 13)

This match was continued yesterday at Leicester with the following result: . . [match drawn].

(Potted scores, not first-class) Australians 142 (Murdoch 29, Groube 30; Rylott 4 wkts, Bottomore 4 wkts) and 200/7 (Bannerman 22, Murdoch 73, Blackham 20, Spofforth 39; Rylott 6 wkts). Leicestershire 95 (Rylott 30; Spofforth 6 wkts, Palmer 4 wkts).

15 July: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2383.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 10)

From the poor form shown by Middlesex in the early part of the present week at Lord's, their friends were somewhat despondent about their chance against Surrey in the annual encounter which commenced yesterday at Kennington-oval. So far as the match has at present advanced, these fears would seem to be more than groundless. The rain in the morning caused the wicket to be dead, though not difficult.

Middlesex won the toss and decided to take advantage of this fact, sending in Messrs I D Walker and Vernon to the bowling of Potter and Blamires. The batting of the last-named gentleman was so brilliant that it threw the efforts of the remainder of his side into the shade. When he was caught at long field off the batting fell off to a marvellous extent. He had previously given a hard chance to long on, but his innings was a great performance, and included two leg hits for five each, eight fours, seven threes, eight twos &c. Three wickets went for 137, and the remaining seven only added 42. Time, 4.10.

Surrey made an exceedingly poor exhibition. Mr L A Shuter batted well, as did Humphrey, while Jupp, as long as his innings lasted, showed his usual study defence. The bowling of Messrs Ford and C T Studd is noteworthy. The former claimed six wickets . . . Surrey at the close of their first innings were in a minority of 99 runs, and in their follow on had gained 11 without loss of wicket. Umpires, Howitt and Street.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 12)

Poor as the batting of Surrey had been on Thursday at Kennington Oval, that of yesterday proved even more so. When play was continued they wanted 88 runs to avert a single innings defeat and had ten wickets with which to get them. Even this modest task was too much for them, and they suffered a defeat by an innings and 30 runs. Messrs Ford and C T Studd were well on the spot, while Mr A J Webbe kept wicket in excellent style.

15 July: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2381.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 10)

A start was not made at Lord's yesterday until after luncheon, when a somewhat weak team of Marylebone entered the lists against Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 12)

This match, which was commenced at Lord's on Thursday, resulted yesterday in an easy victory for Hampshire.

15 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2382.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 10)

Play in this interesting match at Nottingham was delayed yesterday until nearly 3 o'clock. The visitors first occupied the wickets . . .

Days 2 and 3 - no reports found

15 July: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2380.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 10)

On a capital wicket these counties commenced their return match yesterday, at Mote-park, Maidstone. Kent won the toss and began batting with Messrs Patterson and Jones, the early bowling of Yorkshire being intrusted to Peate and Bates.

The defence proved of excellent character, and when but 14 runs were registered the first change in the attack occurred, Pinder's lobs being tried in place of Peate. Mr Patterson was missed at the wicket when he had scored 13, but further alterations had to be made before the first wicket fell - that of Mr Jones. One for 50, a by no means unpromising start. Mr F Penn joined Mr Patterson, and a more rapid style of batting was adopted. The last-named snicked Hill for four, and Mr Penn cut and drove Emmett for a like number. At 67 Peate resumed in place of Emmett, and but five were added before the change took effect, Mr Patterson being finely caught at point. The association of Lord Harris and Mr F Penn existed until the score reached 89, when the latter, who had been just previously missed by Hall at deep mid-off, fell to a catch at slip.

After lunch the Hon Ivo Bligh joined Lord Harris. They divided the honours very evenly until at 123 Bligh played a ball hard on to his wicket. With the figures advanced to 135 Lord Harris was disposed of, and thus five wickets were down for an average of 27 runs. This measure of success was, as may be expected, not maintained. Indeed, the remainder of the wickets added but 39, and the venture closed at 4.23. The fielding of Yorkshire was at first not so good as usual. But during the latter portion of the innings few faults were made.

Yorkshire went in with Ulyett and Grimshaw, to the bowling of Mr A Penn and Mr Foord-Kelcey. At 19 Ulyett misjudged a leg ball and skied it to long-stop. A longer stand was made by Lockwood and Grimshaw. Candlett relieved Mr Penn at 35, but, as this had no material result, O'Shaughnessy was tried in place of Mr Foord-Kelcey at 51. This latter change soon bore fruit, as at 55 Grimshaw was neatly taken at point. Bates, who came next, and Lockwood took the score to 80, when the last-named played on.

Two wickets then fell for an addition of seven runs, Bates being bowled and Mr Riley well caught at mid-off. Taylor joined Emmett. Three figures were posted at 6.10. Then in one over from O'Shaughnessy Emmett made 14 runs (two square leg hits and an on-drive, for each of which four were secured). He was directly afterwards run out through bad judgment on the part of his partner. Six for 120. Hall and Taylor kept together when play ceased, with the score as understated. The fielding of Kent was very good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 12)

The return match between these counties was brought to a conclusion yesterday. Fine weather was experienced, and the Mote Park ground at Maidstone was again well attended. When play ceased on the previous evening Yorkshire had lost six wickets of their first innings, and had 42 runs to get to equal the score made by their opponents.

That they would accomplish this task appeared doubtful by the disastrous commencement. Taylor and Hall were the not outs. The former played on at 135; at the same total Pinder was caught at mid-off; and five minutes later Hill was run out. But one wicket remained, that of Peate. He had no fewer than three escapes. This loose fielding enabled the last pair of batsmen to bring the total to within two of that obtained by the home team.

Kent then began a second innings. Messrs Jones and Patterson were again the early representatives, while Bates and Peate, as in the previous venture, opened the attack. Twice in one over Mr Jones hit Peate to the boundary on the leg side, but with only 14 runs totalled he should have been caught at point by Ulyett. Before, however, a separation was effected, Hill and Emmett were both tried with the ball. The last-named at last succeeded in getting one past Mr Jones, and the first wicket fell for 47 runs. The association of Messrs Penn and Patterson was characterized by some free hitting on the part of the former. Thrice the bowling was changed before Mr Patterson fell to a catch at point, with the score increased to 84. Lord Harris joined Mr F Penn, and by lunch time 102 runs were registered.

Three overs subsequently to the interval, Mr Penn had a life at the hands of Hall at mid-off. The escape was off the bowling of Peate, who at 110 clean bowled Lord Harris. The Hon Ivo Bligh joined Mr Penn, whose finely hit innings closed at 129. His contribution included six fours, a three and three twos. Mr Foord-Kelcey was next in and out, clean bowled with the total at 146. At 155 Mr Blackman was caught at sharp cover-point. The next wicket realized 26 runs, but the last two added only nine, the innings closing at 4.15 for 190 runs. Peate took seven wickets for 61 runs, or, in the two innings, 12 for an average of nine.

Yorkshire were set the task of getting 193 runs to win. An indifferent start was effected. With only 12 runs obtained, Hall made way for Lockwood. At 25 a splendid catch at long-off disposed of Ulyett, but before Lockwood parted company with Grimshaw 57 runs were put on. During this time the cricket all round was exceedingly good. So far, there seemed every prospect of an interesting finish, but the next half-hour's play proved very disastrous to Yorkshire. In that time they lost five more wickets for an addition of 23 runs, and the match was then practically decided. The three remaining batsmen helped to make the defeat less severe, but defeated the Yorkshiremen were at half-past 6 by 64 runs.

19 July: OVER 30 v UNDER 30

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2385.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 11)

At Lord's yesterday there was but a small number of spectators to witness the commencement of the second match under the above title. The teams, although strong, were certainly not representative, but this state of affairs could scarcely be avoided. Under Thirty won the toss and elected to begin batting, sending in Barnes and Midwinter. Mr Grace and Shaw had charge of the bowling.

When only five runs were scored, the former clean bowled Barnes, and at 27 defeated Mr C T Studd in a similar manner. Bates joined Midwinter, and by steady batting the figures were nearly doubled before the last-named was smartly caught at the wicket. Three were down for 50 runs when Scotton and Bates became partners. The latter did nearly all the scoring. Barlow and Emmett displaced the early bowlers, but at lunch time the figures had reached 81. One over subsequently had not, however, been completed, when Bates brought his capital innings to a close by returning the ball smartly to Mr Grace. Mr Royle gave very little trouble, but some difficulty was experienced in separating Scotton and Mr Vernon. The amateur hit with considerable vigour and secured 30 of the 39 runs made while he was batting. In the result he was clean bowled at 125.

Scotton had Gunn for his next partner, and again the batting had the mastery. Twice the mode of attack was changed, but an addition of 46 was effected before Gunn retired. Scotton, with whose performance no fault could be found, was at length got rid of at 172. His items included four fours, four threes and five twos. But two wickets remained, and these added 17, the innings closing at 4.35. Dr Grace took half the wickets, but at an expense of over 18 runs each.

A quarter of an hour later Under Thirty took the field, Bates and Morley having to bowl to Dr Grace and Barlow. The Lancashire professional's defence was scarcely so good as usual, and with only 21 runs scored he was well caught at short leg. Dr Grace claimed most of the runs, and after Oscroft came in continued to bat in vigorous style. Mr Studd and Barnes were tried with the ball. Both were met with confidence by Dr Grace, who at 63 lost the companionship of Oscroft, caught at the wicket. Dr Grace did not long survive this disaster, his dismissal being effected by Mr Studd, whose catch from a low and hard return elicited much applause. Three for 73, of which Dr Grace had made 51, inclusive of nine twos, five threes and two fours. Lockwood, who performed in his best style, witnessed the rapid disposal of the next three wickets, and was not out with Selby when play ceased . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 8)

Those present at Lord's yesterday afternoon were afforded an opportunity of witnessing one of the most closely contested matches ever played. At the close of the first day the juniors had completed an innings for 189 runs, and their opponents, with four wickets still intact, had obtained 116 runs.

Lockwood and Selby were the not-outs, respectively with 32 and one, and at 11.40 they were prepared to meet the attack of Morley and Midwinter. At

121 Selby was caught at slip, and 20 runs later Wild was clean bowled. Lockwood and Pinder, however, remained together while 17 runs were put on, and, in company with Shaw, the first-named continued to bat in fine style, and principally through his efforts the total was swelled to 175. The innings closed at 12.45.

A very fair start was effected by Under Thirty in their second essay. Barnes and Midwinter were the first representatives, opposed by Shaw and Dr Grace. With the score at 14, Midwinter played a ball on to his wicket, but before Barnes and Mr Studd were separated the score reached 52, and this despite a change of bowling. Bates occupied the position vacated by Barnes, and again the batting was in the ascendant.

When 76 were registered, a catch at the wicket deprived Bates of possession. Mr Studd then had Scotton for a partner, and, as the defence proved stubborn, Shaw resumed bowling in place of Barlow. Each of his first three overs produced a wicket, Mr Studd going at 94, Mr Royle at 96 and Mr Vernon at 100. The remaining batsmen took the total to 127.

Over Thirty were set the task of getting 142 runs. Dr Grace and Barlow had to resist the attack of Bates and Morley, and did so with success. For an hour, notwithstanding numerous changes in the bowling, they were associated, and when Barlow – caught at wicket – left the score stood at 62. Dr Grace did not stay a great while afterwards, and his dismissal was quickly followed by other disasters. Indeed, five wickets were lost for an addition of 35 runs only. Selby played well, and had Wild as his companion until the score reached 123.

Shaw was got rid of at 125, and there seemed little chance of the 17 runs required being obtained. Pinder, the last hope, however, twice drove Morley for four, and the excitement became tremendous. But three runs were wanted when Mr Royle at cover-point cleverly stopped a ball which would in all probability have gone for three, and this practically decided the match, as in the next over Pinder was snapped at the wicket. Thus Under Thirty won by two runs only.

19 July: THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS WEEK

KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2384.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 11)

Although there were heavy clouds hovering about the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells yesterday, no rain fell, and the first day of the "Week of the Wells" passed off in a most agreeable manner. The two usual county matches - Kent against Surrey and Sussex - form the programme of the week's cricket.

The match with Surrey began at 12.40, when the home team, having won the toss, decided to take possession of the wickets, the one nearest the members' tent, by the way, not playing too well. A rather poor start was made, as Blamires bowled both Mr Jones and Mr Penn at 17. The two batsmen who were now at the wickets - Lord Harris and Mr Patterson - retained possession of them until the last over before luncheon, when the Kent captain was caught at slip.

After 55 minutes had been allowed for the repast, Pooley distinguished himself by stumping Mr Bligh and catching Mr Foord-Kelcey and Mr Stokes. Mr Patterson, who had played extremely steady cricket and had witnessed the downfall of three of his companions, now played the ball rather tamely into the hands of point. Seven wickets, 85 runs. The three remaining wickets added 36, O'Shaughnessy batting in good style. Total, 121. Duration of innings, 3 hours 10 minutes. Five bowlers were tried . . .

Surrey entered on their defence at a few minutes past 5 o'clock, Messrs L a and J Shuter facing the attacks of Messrs Cunliffe and Foord-Kelcey. The last named sent a tempting ball to Mr L A Shuter, which that batsman cut straight to Mr Stokes at point, who failed, however, to hold it. He did not survive this very long, however, as at 17 he was clean bowled by Wootton, who had relieved Mr Foord-Kelcey, while Jupp was dismissed without having added anything.

Humphrey and Mr J Shuter put some life into affairs. Most of the batting fell to the latter, who drove Wootton to the off and to the on. As the ball pitched outside the canvas on both occasions, six were registered for each of the hits. Humphrey was bowled at 64. Mr Strachan had an escape at mid-off soon after he came in, and a little before 6.30 Mr J Shuter was bowled middle stump by Wootton. Among his hits were the two sixes first mentioned, eight threes and four twos. Four wickets, 87 runs. Stumps were now drawn, just previous to which Mr Foord-Kelcey was unfortunate enough to sprain his leg.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 8)

A charming afternoon at Tunbridge-wells yesterday attracted a large number of spectators to the ground to witness the continuation of the match between Kent and Surrey. When play ceased on Monday the home team had completed an innings for 121, and Surrey lost four wickets for 87.

A very early start was made, as at 10 minutes past 11 Mr Strachan and Read were in readiness to oppose the attacks of Kent, which were directed by Mr

Cunliffe and Wootton. Mr Bligh, who had missed the Surrey captain on the previous evening, atoned for this by well-securing him at mid-off close to the ground when 98 had been gained. Neither of the two succeeded batsmen made much – Mr Sayle clean bowled and Potter caught at mid-off.

Pooley then joined Read, and during their partnership the bowling was varied; but, in spite of this, they put on 40 runs before the former was disposed of by a very fine catch in the long field. Read drove a ball hard to the on, but it was promptly fielded, and in attempting the run he got out. Blamires stayed while Trodd added a single and then sent a ball over the bowler's head, where it was held, and the innings ended for 156 runs.

Kent now had 34 on the wrong side of their account, and sent in the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Patterson. Blamires and Potter took charge of the ball. A very fair start was made as 22 were placed on the score-sheet before the first wicket fell, Mr Patterson then playing the ball back to the bowler. Mr Penn aided Mr Bligh in doubling the score, when Trodd supplanted Blamires, and four runs afterwards Mr Bligh played the ball on to his wicket. The Kent captain fell an easy prey to Potter, and then Mr Jones made his appearance.

Several changes were tried before he and Mr Penn could be separated, as it was not until after luncheon and when 98 had been obtained that a catch at slip dismissed Mr Penn who had made one six (square leg), one four, six threes &c. Eight runs were added while the next two batsmen were in. When O'Shaughnessy joined Mr Jones the attack underwent repeated changes; but as many as 68 were put on prior to Mr Jones falling to an excellent catch at slip. Mr Foord-Kelcey was unable to reappear, and the venture closed for 174.

Surrey wanted 140 to win. Mr J Shuter batted in grand form, until a fine catch by third man got rid of him. He received but poor assistance from his compeers, however, and when stumps were drawn the game was left in a most interesting state. Play will be resumed to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 July, page 12)

When play ceased on Tuesday the game between Surrey and Kent might fairly be said to have hung in the balance. Surrey, however, proved themselves unable to hold their own yesterday, and were beaten by 36 runs.

22 July: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2386.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 8)

The second item on the programme at Tunbridge-wells was started yesterday. The weather was fine and there was no falling-off in the attendance. Having won the toss, Kent entered the lists against the attacks of Sussex.

The early batsmen showed exceedingly good form, but the latter part of the team offered a feeble resistance. Lord Harris, who went in second wicket down, was missed at long-off when he had made 23, and profiting by this he kept in possession until 165 had been made, when he was taken at mid-off. His hits comprised an on-drive out of the ground for six, two four's, nine three's &c. But 28 runs were made after his departure, and the last batsman was dismissed at 193.

Sussex showed a very poor opposition to the varied attacks of Kent, and when play ceased for the day nine wickets were down for 62 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 10)

A lovely day at Tunbridge-wells yesterday attracted a large number of spectators, in spite of the fact that there was little prospect of an interesting termination to the match between Kent and Sussex. The latter on the previous evening had lost nine wickets for 62, and when only a couple had been added Juniper was clean bowled. Three bowlers were engaged; Mr Cunliffe claimed five wickets in 14 overs for 13 runs.

Sussex followed on, and managed to save an innings victory; but they had little to spare, as at 3.30 they were all out for 138, Mr Whitfeld being top scorer. Kent went in with 10 runs to get to win, which they did without loss of wicket.

From the full score appended it will be seen that the home team were victors by 10 wickets. Umpires, Luck and C Payne.

22 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2387.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 8)

There are few counties matches which excite more interest than those between Lancashire and Gloucestershire. It is, therefore, not surprising, the weather being fine, that the old Trafford ground, near Manchester, should have been well attended yesterday. Both counties were well represented . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 10)

Play at Old Trafford was continued yesterday in fine weather and before a large number of spectators. Gloucestershire, who had on the preceding evening lost five wickets for 133 runs, were disposed of by twenty minutes past one.

Lancashire started their second innings in arrears to the extent of 23 runs, and secured 107. At the close of the day the western county had lost two wickets for 14 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 6)

Rain fell so fast at Manchester on Saturday that play in the above match was quite impracticable, and the contest was left drawn. During the two previous days Lancashire had scored 158 and 107 – total, 265; and Gloucestershire 181 and 14 (two wickets); the latter, therefore, had only 71 for victory, and eight wickets with which to get them.

22 July: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2388.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 8)

At the St John's ground, Huddersfield, yesterday, the Australians commenced their second match of the season against Yorkshire, who on the present occasion did not play the full strength of the county. The Colonials had first to take the field, their early bowlers being Spofforth and Palmer. Hall and Lockwood opened that batting, which was of a rather monotonous character.

More than half an hour was exhausted for 19 runs, at which total Lockwood was dismissed. Bates and Hall increased the figures to 31, but following the former's defeat frequent disasters were experienced. Three wickets fell for an addition of eight runs. The second half of the wickets realized exactly the same as the first, the longest stand having been made by Emmett and Mr Bottomley. Palmer and Spofforth divided the bowling honours pretty evenly.

At half-past 3 the visitors were represented by Bannerman and Murdoch, opposed by Peate and Bates. Three chances were given by Murdoch, and from the last he was caught at point. Bannerman, Groube and Macdonnell made amends for this early disaster, and when play ceased but three wickets had been lost for 145 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 10)

Rain interfered considerably with the programme of this match at Huddersfield yesterday. At the close of the previous day the Australians had made 145 runs for the loss of three wickets, and were 67 runs in advance of their rivals. Groube and Spofforth were the not outs, respectively with 50 and 36, and these two, opposed by Emmett and Peate, had increased the score by 13 only when rain caused operations to be suspended.

Upon resuming, Spofforth was speedily got rid of, and Groube followed shortly afterwards - caught at slip. In the latter's well obtained contribution were six fours, five threes and six twos. At the close of the day six wickets were down for 229 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 6)

Wet weather in the North of England seems to have been general on Saturday, as in this contest, also, at Huddersfield not a ball was bowled. So far as the match had proceeded, Yorkshire had finished an innings for 78 runs, and the Australians had lost six wickets for 229 runs.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS

(report from Tuesday 27 July, page 5)

It is stated that the committee of the Surrey County Club have decided to place Kennington Oval at the disposal of the Australians on the condition that a representative team of English cricketers can be got together to meet them. The match will probably be played the first or second week in September.

26 July: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2389.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 July, page 5)

The return to a match played between these counties at Nottingham in the early part of June, and left drawn, was commenced yesterday at Kennington Oval. The weather was very showery and had a palpable effect on the attendance, which was not nearly so large as it would otherwise have been. Nottingham won the choice of innings, and decided on taking possession of the wickets, which they did at 12.55, Daft and Oscroft having to withstand the attacks of Blamires and Potter.

The start was poor, as Oscroft was out through attempting a short run; and the vacancy was filled by Shrewsbury. The bowling underwent several changes, but the batsmen had not been separated when the luncheon interval arrived, the total then standing at 49. Rain caused the game to be delayed for three-quarters of an hour beyond the time usually allowed.

Seventeen runs were added before Shrewsbury was exceedingly well caught at wicket. Daft, who was batting in something like his old style, was assisted by Barnes. Runs now came rapidly, the new comer hitting with great vigour, so much so that Humphrey – fielding at point – was unable to see a ball of his in time to stop it, and was struck very severely on the head. Although it must have hurt him very much he stuck to his post. After another stoppage by rain, the batting again got the upper hand, and once more the bowling was varied. The 100 was hoisted at 5 o'clock, and a few overs later, Daft returned the ball. His hits comprised three four's, four three's, five two's &c. Four wickets, 136 runs.

Scotton batted in a very determined manner, making the only five gained during the day by sending the ball to square leg. He had the ill-luck to be run out at 178. Twenty runs later, Selby was bowled leg-stump. Flowers and Gunn kept together until 7 o'clock, when six wickets were down for 208. Umpires – Carpenter and Rowbottom.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 July, page 10)

Play in this match was resumed at Kennington Oval yesterday. Unfortunately for Surrey, the hot sun had a most damaging effect on the wicket, and just suited the Nottingham bowling, especially that of Morley. Play was resumed at ten minutes past 12, when the visitors, who had lost six wickets for 208, sent in Flowers and Gunn (the not outs) to continued their innings. Potter and Blamires were the bowlers.

Eleven runs were made off them before Flowers had his middle stump knocked down. Shaw joined Gunn, and runs came so quickly that a change had to be tried; so Mr Lucas relieved Potter at 232, soon after which the first-named batsman was run out. Sherwin soon succumbed to a fine one-hand catch at mid-off. Morley hit with unwonted freedom, and was not clean bowled until the total reached 266, Gunn carrying out his bat for a well-played 29. Five bowlers had been engaged . . .

With this heavy total against them Surrey started their batting, but to very little purpose. Shaw and Morley took charge of the ball. The latter was very difficult to play. Three wickets only produced a run apiece.

Read added nine, and then the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh wickets all fell at 12; while four runs more sufficed to see the remainder of the Surrey team all dismissed. Total 16. The bowling is noteworthy; it analyses thus: - Shaw, 20 overs (16 maidens), six runs, three wickets; Morley, 19 overs 2 balls (12 maidens), nine runs, seven wickets.

Surrey had the uphill task of getting 250 runs in order to avoid a single innings defeat. Mr Shuter and Jupp opposed the attacks of Shaw and Morley ay 3.50. A cut for four by Mr Shuter was the chief contribution out of 24 runs, when he played the ball into point's hands. Mr Lucas joined Jupp, who then played back to Shaw who failed to hold the ball. The Surrey professional turned this indulgence into good account, and despite several changes of bowling it was not until 59 were made that Jupp was also caught at point. Mr Wyld played pluckily and well, making the only two fives placed to the credit of Surrey by hits to square leg. After this he continued to play well, and at 97 saw the downfall of Mr Lucas, who fell to a fine ball of Morley's. He did not long survive - bowled off stump. Five for 104 runs.

Humphrey fell to a catch at mid-on. Read batted with considerable freedom before being captured at short leg, while Mr Lyons succumbed to cover point. Seventh and eighth wickets 139. Pooley and Potter played out time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 July, page 11)

Less than an hour proved sufficient to bring the above match at Kennington Oval yesterday to a close. Surrey had only three wickets left with which to save a single innings defeat. The chief hit made was a draw for four by Pooley, but beyond this no stand was made, and when the tenth wicket fell Nottinghamshire found themselves victors by an innings and 65 runs. four bowlers were engaged . . .

26 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2390.html)

Day 1 - no report received

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 July, page 10)

It is always unfortunate when a game between two strong counties is interfered with by rain, and particularly so when the match is played for the benefit of a deserving professional. The executive of the Yorkshire County Club had set apart the above contest for the benefit of Pinder, a wicket-keeper who has been knocked about in many a well-fought battle. Three days in the week were named for it at Bramall-lane, Sheffield; but on the first it rained so hard that any start was impracticable, and yesterday hostilities could not be commenced until half-past 1, when Yorkshire, having won the toss, deputed Ulyett and Lockwood to oppose the bowling of Dr W G Grace and Midwinter.

The latter made a smart return catch which got rid of Ulyett. Grimshaw succeeded, but no effective stand was subsequently made, and the innings closed for five runs less than a hundred, a result to which the bowling of Midwinter mainly contributed. Gloster sent in Drs W G and E M Grace, and at the close of the day four wickets had fallen for 48 runs. Ulyett's two catches at cover-point were especially brilliant. Umpires, Pullin and Hill.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 July, page 11)

This match, at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, was resumed yesterday, only one innings each being got through.

29 July: GENTLEMEN OF THE NORTH v PLAYERS OF THE NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2391.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 July, page 5)

A match under the above title was commenced yesterday at Old Trafford, and an innings for the Gentlemen got through.

Day 2 (score but no report from Saturday 31 July, page 11)

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 August, page 8)

A little under two hours' play proved sufficient to bring the match between the above at Manchester on Saturday to a definite issue. The Players were put in to get 91 for victory. The full score appended will show that they won by three wickets.

29 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2392.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 July, page 5)

In consequence of the heavy rain which fell during the day there was no play yesterday in this match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 July, page 11)

Heavy rain prevented a commencement of play in this match at Nottingham on Thursday. Yesterday, also, the wet weather prevented much progress being made. The home party went in; but the form shown was poor, with the exception of the batting of Scotton and Flowers. These hit with considerable determination, and when rain stopped play eight wickets had been lost.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 August, page 8)

So far as could be judged from the progress made between these rivals at Nottingham on Friday and Saturday, the encounter, had not rain interfered, would probably have been of an even nature, as will be seen from the state of the game when stumps were drawn.

2 August: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

KENT v ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2395.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 11)

The week at Canterbury has not commenced in the most favourable circumstances so far as the weather is concerned. Early yesterday the clouds began to gather in a threatening manner over the St Lawrence ground. The rain soon came down in earnest, and until past 2 o'clock little change was experienced. After a time however the prospect brightened, and from a quarter to 3 until stumps were drawn the game proceeded without interruption.

The cricket proved of a very interesting character, and the wicket played much better than could have been expected. Kent fielded well, and the Hon A Lyttelton batted in his usual clean style. At 6.30, when play ceased, the game stood as follows: [England 172; Kent 16/1].

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 11)

The match between England and Thirteen of Kent was continued in splendid weather yesterday. We have only room for the score.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 10)

A large company was again present yesterday at the St Lawrence Ground to witness what turned out to be an excellent finish to the match between the Eleven of England and Thirteen of Kent. The weather was very fine and the play excellent all round.

When play ceased on Tuesday England had obtained 270 runs at the cost of an innings and four wickets, and Kent 189 in their first venture. Yesterday the game commenced with the batting of Barnes (24) and Mr C I Thornton (25), the overnight not-outs, Messrs Cunliffe and A Penn bowling. After a few small hits, Mr Thornton made a cut through the slips for four, but the same batsman shortly afterwards skied a ball, which was cleverly caught by Mr Jones running at long-on. Five wickets for 109. Mr Pearson filled the vacancy. Runs were then made slowly; and a cut for three by Mr Pearson and the same number for a snick by Barnes brought about a change of bowling - Wootton and Bray taking the places of Messrs Cunliffe and A Penn. Mr Pearson was at once clean-bowled.

Flowers joined Barnes, but at 132 cut the ball into the wicket-keeper's hands. Shaw, who followed, made a three (off-drive), a two (cut), and soon after returned the ball smartly to Mr Cunliffe, who, however, failed to hold it. Subsequently Shaw was caught at slip. Eight wickets down for 147. Morley came in, and Barnes made an off-drive for four; but the new-comer was soon dismissed at slip. Four more were put on, when Barnes was clean-bowled, and the innings closed for 157. Barnes's hits included four fours, five threes and seven twos.

Kent commenced their second venture at 12.50 with Mr Jones and Mr Mackinnon to the bowling of Morley and Shaw. Mr Jones made the first big hit,

sending the ball to leg for four. In Morley's next over four more were made off him by the same batsman for a drive; but Morley then clean-bowled Mr Mackinnon. Mr Patterson then came in, but after scoring one was cleverly caught at point. Mr F Penn, the newcomer, succeeded in hitting Morley clean over the boundary for four. This brought the score to 19, and without change Mr Jones was run out. The Hon Ivo Bligh joined Mr F Penn, and soon sent Morley to leg for three. Only small hits succeeded until four were made by Mr F Penn for a leg hit. The luncheon bell then rang.

On the resumption of play, Morley crossed over and Shaw came on. Mr F Penn shortly after sent the ball flying high into the air, and it was splendidly caught after a smart run at long-on. The captain of the home team took the last man's place, and two fours (off-drives) followed to his partner. At 61 Rylott took Morley's place. Runs were made fast. An off drive for four by Mr Bligh was followed by a cut by Lord Harris for three. Mr Bligh scored four for a similar hit, and Lord Harris made two fours (cuts). Rylott was then replaced by Morley.

The 100 went up at 4.15, and at 106 Lord Harris was caught at slip. Several changes in the bowling had in the meantime been made, Shaw and Morley being now in their old places and O'Shaughnessy at the wicket. The last comer made a four and singles, when he was bowled with the score at 115. Mr Kemp soon succumbed to a ball from Shaw, and Mr Cunliffe shortly followed - leg-before. Eight for 122. Hearne came in, and Mr Bligh made two fours (an on-drive and a leg-hit), when Hearne was run out. Nine wickets, 136. When Mr A Penn joined Mr Bligh there were five runs to get, and at half-past 5 Mr Penn made the winning hit - a late cut for three. Kent thus won the match by three wickets.

The next match on the programme (between Gentlemen of England and Gentlemen of Kent) will be commenced to-day.

2 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2394.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 11)

None of the matches arranged by the Australians in this country have been looked forward to with so much interest as that commenced on the Clifton College ground yesterday. The western county lost the toss and had first to take the field, Mr W G Grace and Midwinter sharing the bowling. The Australians' early representatives were Bannerman and Murdoch, and but three runs were totalled when the latter was clean bowled.

This disaster caused a great deal of caution to be exercised by those who followed, and runs came at a very tardy pace. With seven only registered a splendid catch at long off removed Bannerman, whose place was taken by Groube. A determined resistance was then offered, the incomer showing good defence, while M'Donnell did nearly all the scoring. At 49 the first bowling change occurred, Mr Townsend going on in place of Mr W G Grace. Four runs later M'Donnell's well-hit, but not altogether faultless, innings was closed by a catch at long on. Of 53 runs scored he made all but 11, his chief items being four fours and six twos. Only three wickets had yet been disposed of; but the remainder of the innings compared unfavourably, and it eventually closed for 110. Mr W G Grace obtained six wickets at a cost of 44 runs.

Gloucestershire began batting with Messrs W G Grace and E M Grace. The former gave little trouble, but the latter hit in capital style. Indeed, of 120 runs secured at the end of the day for the loss of six wickets he claimed more than half. Mr G F Grace also batted well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 11)

Yesterday Gloster added 71 to their total of the previous day, Mr Gilbert scoring 48 in splendid style, making among other items three fours, four threes and eight twos.

In arrear to the extent of 81 runs, the Australians commenced a second venture at a quarter-past 1. They met with a greater amount of success than in the first. M'Donnell was let off early in his innings, and this cost the home team dearly, as he continued to bat in capital style until he had accumulated 79. His efforts were well seconded by Blackham and Bonnor, as will be seen by the score below. Gloucestershire requires 166 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 10)

When play in this match ceased on Tuesday evening the Australians had completed their second innings. Yesterday Gloucestershire began their task of getting 166 runs at 20 minutes to 12, and that they were thought capable of scoring them was proved by the large number of persons assembled on the Clifton College ground.

Messrs W G and E M Grace first faced the bowling of Palmer and Spofforth. The Gloucestershire captain was even less successful than in the previous innings, as with only seven runs registered he was given out leg before.

Midwinter and Mr E M Grace were then partnered, and an improvement was shown. At 29 it was considered advisable to remove Palmer in favour of Boyle, and ten runs later a catch at point disposed of Midwinter. Little assistance was rendered by either Mr Townsend or Mr G F Grace; but Mr Cranston stayed with Mr E M Grace while the score was increased to 70, when a catch at slip caused his retirement.

Half the wickets being down, very grave doubts were entertained of the county accomplishing their task, especially as Spofforth was bowling in fine form. Another disaster quickly befell the county, as at 79 Mr E M Grace played a ball back to the bowler. His excellently hit 41 included seven fours. Messrs Gilbert and Moberly took the score to 92, when the latter was clean bowled, and the three remaining wickets failed to add more than five runs. The last fell just before lunch-time (2 o'clock), leaving the Australians in possession of a victory by 68 runs.

2 August: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2396.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 11)

These counties met at Kennington Oval yesterday to commence their first match of the present season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 11)

This match was continued yesterday at Kennington Oval. Surrey completed their first innings for 104 against the 120 scored by Sussex. In their second innings Sussex scored 108; and Surrey began their second innings with two runs and no wicket down when play closed for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 10)

At an early hour yesterday the first match of the season between these counties, commenced at Kennington Oval on Monday, was brought to a definite issue. Surrey were set the task of getting 125 runs to win, and overnight had secured two of this number without loss of wicket. Jupp and Potter were the not outs, and they re-occupied their positions at 10 minutes past 12, opposed by Lillywhite and Mr Sclater.

Jupp was speedily got rid of – caught at cover point – but Potter remained with Mr L A Shuter until 33 runs were totalled, when he was neatly taken by third man. As in the first innings, Mr Read met with little success, much to the disappointment of his side. He was third out with the score at 50, having played a ball back to the bowler. The association of the brothers Shuter led many to expect a long stand, but Mr J Shuter did not exhibit his usual confidence, and both were dismissed when the figures had reached 63, Mr L A Shuter being bowled and Mr J Shuter easily caught by Mr Sclater, to whom he returned the ball.

As half the wickets were now down for as near as possible half the runs required, there seemed every prospect of an interesting finish. So carefully, however, did Mr Wyld and Elliott bat that the hopes of Sussex were gradually lowered. The cricket was slow, but both showed good form, and before they were separated 56 runs were put on. Tempted to step in to a ball from Mr Sclater, Elliott gave H Phillips that chance which he had been so eagerly waiting for, and the sixth wicket went at 119. But six runs were wanted when Mr Lindsay came in, and by 4 o'clock Surrey had secured victory with four wickets still intact.

The fielding of Sussex was very good and the bowling frequently changed. Mr Wyld's batting went a long way towards Surrey's success. Most of his runs were made off leg balls, and included a five and six fours.

5 August: GENTLEMEN OF KENT v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2397.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 8)

The Ladies' Day at Canterbury turned out one of the finest as regards weather which has been experienced during the week at the St Lawrence Ground. As a natural consequence the ground was thronged with spectators, of whom ladies formed a large proportion. From an early hour the visitors began to arrive, and after luncheon they numbered about 8,000 persons.

The match between the Gentlemen of England and the Gentlemen of Kent was commenced. The former played a very strong team, while the latter, although possessing considerable batting and fielding qualities, had not much bowling, but at the end of the day they had captured more of the England wickets than could almost have been expected.

Play commenced at 11.15. Kent, having won the toss, sent in the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr Patterson; Dr W G Grace and Mr Robertson conducted the attack. The first ball which was sent down produced a leg hit by Mr Patterson for three, and the second was driven to the on for four by Mr Bligh. A two (leg hit) and a four (on drive) followed to the latter off Dr Grace. In the next over Mr Patterson drove Mr Robertson to the on for two, but played the last ball of the same over on to his wicket. One for 15. Mr F Penn joined Mr Bligh, but did not stay long, as, after three small hits by his partner, he was given out leg before wicket to Dr Grace. The next ball from this bowler upset the new comer's middle stump.

Lord Harris took the place of Mr Colebrooke. Lord Harris cut Dr Grace for three and drove Mr Robertson for four, and in the next over Mr Bligh made an off drive for four off the former bowler. With the score at 40 Mr Bligh was clean bowled. Lord Harris then took into partnership Mr Jones, who made seven off of Dr Grace's next over (an on drive for four, a leg hit for two and a single). The 50 went up for an hour's play.

After ten more were added, Mr Webbe, running from mid on, cleverly caught Mr Jones between wickets. The vacancy was filled by Mr Mackinnon. Lord Harris then made two leg hits for two each, and in the following over the last comer was caught at long off. Mr A Penn came in at 63. Both batsmen played with great care. Minor hits only were made, and eight maiden overs in succession had been sent down when Mr A Penn sent the ball into slip's hands. Seven wickets for 68. With Mr Pattisson in, the score rapidly rose to 86, including two leg hits for two and an off drive for four by Lord Harris.

Mr Cottrell then took the ball from Mr Robertson. The change. However, did not check the rate of run-getting. The first two balls from the new bowler were both drives to the on - the first for two and the second for three. His next over produced two twos to Mr Pattisson (leg hit and square leg). At 1.28 the 100 appeared on the telegraph-board, and after eight were added Mr Pattisson was splendidly caught by Mr Pearson, with one hand. Lord Harris then made a leg hit for two, which was followed by a three and a two (both cuts) by the same batsman. With the score at 124, Lord Harris hit the ball and was called to by Mr Kemp to run; when he had got half-way across he was told to return, but did not, and was run out. Play then stopped for luncheon.

Mr Cunliffe joined Lord Harris afterwards. The three remaining balls in Mr Cottrell's over produced five, three for a cut by Lord Harris, and a similar hit for two by his partner. Mr C T Studd then came on to bowl for Mr Robertson. After three leg hits for two each, one to Mr Cunliffe and two to his captain, Mr Cunliffe drove the ball well to the off for four, which was followed by an off drive for three and a cut for four by Lord Harris. At 1.55 the captain was bowled off his leg, and without change in the score the eleventh wicket was taken at point by Mr Pearson with a splendid left-handed catch off Mr Cunliffe's bat.

At 4 o'clock England commenced their defence with Dr W G Grace and Mr A J Webbe to the attack of Messrs A Penn and Cunliffe. Dr Grace did not prove so formidable as was expected. After making a leg hit for two and a cut for three, both off Mr Cunliffe, the bowler had his revenge in a return catch. Mr Lyttelton joined Mr Webbe and some free hitting was shown. Previous to 25, when the bowlers changed ends, Mr Webbe had made a good cut for four and several twos. The score rapidly increased to 36, when Mr Parr took the place of Mr Penn. Both bowlers were now severely punished, and at 53 Lord Harris took the ball from Mr Cunliffe. A four to each batsman succeeded; a leg hit by Mr Webbe and a cut by Mr Lyttelton brought the score to 63, at which figure Mr Webbe tipped the ball into the wicket-keeper's hands.

Mr Thornton came in, but at 70 was bowled leg stump. Mr I D Walker was Mr Lyttelton's next partner, and drove Mr Parr to the on for four. Mr Cunliffe now resumed bowling, and Mr A Penn joined him shortly after, when the score had reached 85. Several changes were tried in the bowling, but they did not effect a separation until 142 was reached, when Mr F Penn had the second ball of [his] second over returned into his hands by Mr Walker for a capital 35 . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 6)

As usual on a Friday, the attendance at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, showed a considerable falling-off. When play commenced yesterday a cloudy sky, threatening rain, overshadowed the scene. It was expected that England would make a large score on this occasion, and their hitting yesterday justified these anticipations.

When stumps were drawn on Thursday, Kent had completed an innings for 155 and England had lost four wickets for 147. The not-outs overnight resumed batting shortly after 11, the bowling being in the hands of Mr A Penn and Cunliffe. Mr Lyttelton cut the first ball for three, and Mr Pearson sent Mr Cunliffe to leg for the same number, but in the next over gave a very easy chance to Mr Colebrooke at point, which the latter let slip by. Mr Lyttelton then made a cut for four. At 165 Kent lost another chance, which Mr Lyttelton gave to Mr F Penn at mid-on, but it proved too hard for him. After twice sending the ball to leg for three, Mr Pearson again hit it to point, who this time secured it. Five for 180.

Mr Mitchell then went in. When six had been added, Mr Kemp, in trying to stop a very fast ball sent down by Mr Parr (who had taken the place of Mr Cunliffe), unfortunately put his finger out, and was compelled to retire. Mr Pattisson took his place and a substitute came into the field. A cut for four by Mr Mitchell completed the 200 at 12.15. The latter played in splendid form, sending Mr Cunliffe to square leg for four and, after minor hits, driving him thrice for four. These he followed soon after with a cut and two leg hits each for the same number. Mr Lyttelton in the meantime,

at 257, had completed his century, and after three drives, one to the off and two to the on for four, was caught at long-off for a splendid innings of 120. The score then amounted to 294 – a number which showed no alteration when Mr Mitchell was dismissed by a very high catch at mid-on.

The possessors of the wickets were now Messrs C T Studd and Vernon, and these brought the 300 on at 1.30, after which Mr Vernon twice drove Mr A Penn; but with the score at 31[?] Mr Studd was caught at long-on. Mr Cottrell joined Mr Vernon, and the bowling, which was often changed, again came in for severe punishment, being twice driven by Mr Vernon for four, first to the off, then to the on. Mr Cunliffe also made two fours by a cut and a drive. When the luncheon bell rang the score stood at 349. The innings closed, on Mr Cottrell being bowled, for 363.

Kent started their second innings, but rain again interfered with the play . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 August, page 8)

The week at Canterbury finished up as it had commenced, so far as weather in concerned. Rain prevented a start from being made for some time on Monday, and rain caused a discontinuance on Saturday before the hour appointed for drawing stumps. When play was stopped on Friday each side had completed an innings – England for 363 runs and Kent for 155. The latter had also obtained 19 without loss of wicket.

Play was resumed at 11.30, Messrs Patterson and F Penn (the not-outs) being opposed by Messrs Grace and Robertson. Four runs only had been added when a separation was effected, Mr Patterson returning the ball. The Hon Ivo Bligh then appeared, and the batting soon got the upper hand. The bowling underwent many changes, but the hundred was passed before Mr Penn, who had done most of the hitting, was caught at short leg. His innings comprised nine fours, three threes, seven twos &c. Mr Colebrooke joined Mr Bligh, and again the total advanced pretty speedily, notwithstanding all the efforts of the attacking party. At 1.45 the rain, which had been threatening, came down, and the game could not be resumed for an hour.

Mr Colebrooke's dismissal came soon afterwards – caught at mid-on. Three wickets, 168 runs. Mr Jones was the next on the list, and a clever piece of stumping got rid of Mr Bligh, who had played an excellent innings of six fours, five threes, nine twos and singles. Rain again interrupted play; and on resuming Mr Jones was bowled at 209. Mr A Penn arrived, but before anything more could be secured another downpour caused the match to be abandoned . . .

5 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2398.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 8)

At Old Trafford, near Stretford, Manchester, yesterday, a return match was commenced between Lancashire and Yorkshire. The home county first occupied the wickets. Hr Hornby, as usual, went in with Barlow, and of 45 runs made at his dismissal he claimed all but three. The innings closed for 132 runs.

More than half this number had been secured by the visiting county at the close of the day, and but one wicket had been lost.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 6)

When play ceased in this match at Old Trafford, near Manchester, on Thursday evening, Lancashire had completed an innings for 132 runs, and Yorkshire had lost one wicket for 67 runs. The early promise of a long score by Yorkshire was not fulfilled yesterday, and the visiting county were disposed of for an addition of 55 runs.

Lancashire, with a small balance of seven runs in their favour, went in a second time, and at the close of the day had scored but 47 runs for the loss of nine wickets. The bowling of Peate and Bates proved very effective.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 August, page 8)

This match was continued on Saturday at Old Trafford, Manchester, but rain prevented its being brought to a definite issue.

9 August: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2399.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 5)

In this return match at derby yesterday. Lancashire first occupied the wickets. Mr Hornby and Barlow, with whom they commenced, were both disposed of when only nine runs figured on the score sheet, the former by a catch at the wicket and the latter at cover point.

An improvement was shown by Robinson and Mr Royle; but at 21 the latter was caught at cover point, and, with 19 added, Robinson also went. Two runs later, Mr Rowley made way for Mr Lancashire, who witnessed the fall of Mr Kershaw's wicket at 52, Pilling's at 54, and was the not out at lunch time. Subsequently Mr Lancashire was joined by Briggs, who was clean bowled at 58. Watson came in and Hay deposed Platts at 78. His second over saw Watson caught at short leg. Nine for 85. Four runs resulted from the last wicket, the innings closing at 3.25 for 89 runs.

Derbyshire began batting with Rigley and Pemberton, the attack being intrusted to Watson and Nash. Rigley, Mr Barrington, Foster and Mr Cursham were in turn clean bowled, and a return to the bowler by Mr R P Smith brought the fifth wicket down for ten runs only. At 26 eight wickets had fallen. Then Hay, who was joined by Mycroft, hit vigorously and brought on a change of bowling. At 61, however, a catch at cover point disposed of Hay, who had made 21 of 40 runs secured while he was batting. The venture closed for 75 runs.

With a balance of 10 runs in their favour, Lancashire commenced a second innings, Mr Hornby and Barlow facing Mycroft and Platts. At 3 Hornby was clean bowled . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 August, page 5)

This match was continued at Derby yesterday. The score shows that Lancashire won by 65 runs.

9 August: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2400.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 5)

Fine weather favoured the opening of this match at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday. An innings was completed on either side, which left Nottingham with a balance of 27 with which to open their second innings.

Day 2 - no report found

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 August, page 11)

Yesterday this return match was concluded at Bramall-lane, Sheffield. Yorkshire required but ten runs to win, and had five wickets to fall. These were speedily obtained, and the home county won by five wickets, a result towards which the bowling of Peate and Bates mainly conduced. Umpires, Carpenter and Coward.

12 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2401.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 5)

A commencement was made in the return match between these counties yesterday at Clifton. Middlesex went in first. Mr Webbe played a remarkably fine innings of 142, in which were ten fours, 12 threes and eight twos. He saw six of his side dismissed, and was at the wickets four hours and ten minutes.

Mr Pearson also showed good form, and was in with Mr Webbe while 115 runs were scored. Mr Vernon batted in his usual vigorous style and Mr Ford hit freely . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 10)

Yesterday the western county remained at the wickets nearly the whole time allotted for play at Clifton. At one portion of the innings it looked very much as though Gloucestershire would have to follow on, as with six wickets lost they were 233 runs behind the Middlesex total. Messrs Moberly and Cranston, however, took the score from this number (102) to 212. Mr Cranston was then disposed of, having in his excellent score made frequent boundary hits.

Mr Gribble stayed with Mr Moberly until 281 runs were totalled, and the latter was also got rid of at 306. His well-hit contribution included ten fours, eight threes and eight twos. Middlesex went in a second time, and when play ceased had lost three wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 11)

Between these counties four matches have now been contested, but only one has been played out, that concluded at Clifton on Saturday last. On two occasions rain prevented a definite issue being arrived at, while heavy scoring conduced to a similar result in the return match of last season. At one time this latter fate seemed in store for the match under notice, as when play ceased on Friday evening little better than an innings each had been completed, Middlesex having lost but three wickets for 63 runs in their second venture. This, with the balance of 29 runs possessed by them on their first innings, left them with 92 runs "on," and in this state the game was when proceedings were started on Saturday.

Messrs Webbe and Walker were the not-outs respectively with 16 and 18, and a long stand was confidently expected. The wicket, however, did not play so well as anticipated, and both Midwinter and Dr W G Grace bowled very well. By these means a marked change in the aspect of affairs was worked. In the fifth over bowled Mr Walker was disposed of, and in his eighth over Dr Grace secured the second wicket of the morning. Thus five were down for 87.

Mr Vernon took the place recently occupied by Mr Pearson, only to return the first ball he received to Dr W G Grace, and at the same total Mr A F J Ford retired. Mr Webbe saw two more of his side dismissed, and was ninth out with the score at 121, of which he claimed more than a fourth. Indeed,

but for his batting, the Middlesex innings would have collapsed for a very small amount. As it was, it realized but 122 runs, leaving Gloucestershire only 152 runs to secure victory. All through the innings the fielding of the home team was exceedingly good. Five wickets were taken by Dr Grace at a cost of 12 runs each, while Midwinter obtained four for 37 runs.

Gloucestershire commenced their task with Drs E M and W G Grace, both of whom scored very freely, and in a quarter of an hour had between them put on 30 runs. A check was, however, experienced at 56, when a catch at the wicket deprived Dr E M Grace of his position. Scarcely had Mr Townsend come in when Dr W G Grace was neatly taken at slip, and at 66 the third of the brothers Grace retired. When Midwinter joined Mr Townsend 86 runs were still required, but before they were separated this had been reduced by exactly 60 runs.

Midwinter was then caught at the wicket, and before any addition had been made Mr Townsend was caught at short mid-on. Both displayed good cricket, each in his own style. No less than seven fours figured in Mr Townsend's contribution. Mr Moberly joined Mr Gilbert, and by half-past 4 Gloucestershire had won the match by five wickets.

12 August: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2402.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 5)

As Yorkshire have not shown any very great form this season, except the victory gained by them over Nottinghamshire at the commencement of the present week, it was not expected that they would exhibit such grand batting against Surrey in the return with them, commenced yesterday at Kennington Oval. They kept possession of the wickets from the time they were pitched until the day was at a close.

Play began at a quarter-past 12, when Yorkshire, who had won the toss, went in. Ulyett and Mr Gifkins opposed Blamires and Potter. The first-named batsman, having made nine by a couple of hits, drives for four and five, Elliott, at 39, went [on] in lieu of Blamires. Mr Gifkins hit his third ball for four, and as runs came rather quickly, Mr W Read was tried at 47 in the room of Potter. Still not check, and as Ulyett had made a couple of cuts for four, Blamires resumed, and shortly afterwards Gifkins was taken at wicket. Lockwood narrowly escaped being run out, and then he and Ulyett made a most determined stand until the total reached 127, when the first-named was clean-bowled.

Emmett arrived, and once more the batsmen were masters of the situation, setting the combined efforts of their opponents at naught until no less than 218 runs had been registered, and Ulyett was then bowled. Bates hit in a most vigorous style, sending several balls beyond the boundary. Sowden also hit well until obliged to retire, and when stumps were drawn as many as 332 runs were registered for six wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 10)

With 332 runs on the record for the loss of but half-a-dozen wickets, yesterday, at Kennington Oval, Yorkshire resumed their innings with Grimshaw, not out 7, and Hill, not out 13, the bowlers being Potter and Blamires.

Hill added only a single before being captured in the slips, when Sowden, who had retired from the wickets on the preceding day through illness, resumed his innings. To his then score of 16 he added 9 before being run out. Aspinall returned a ball to the bowler when he had made 14, and then Grimshaw was run out for 45, an innings of remarkable merit. One hour and a quarter was consumed in adding 66 runs to Thursday's score.

The Surrey innings was commenced by Jupp and Mr J Shuter, the opposing bowlers being Peate and Bates. When 17 were on the telegraph board the amateur's leg stump was struck, and Mr W W Read appeared on the scene. After luncheon had been served Jupp retired – bowled, leg stump – at 40, and two runs later Mr Read also had to leave. Humphrey and Mr Wyld were not long associated, the last-named being unfortunately run out. Four for 44.

Read and Humphrey, however, not only changed the appearance of the score, but also brought on a variety of bowling changes, Hill, Emmett and Ulyett all trying their hands. Aspinall made a fault at the wicket off the first mentioned, letting off Read. A clever catch at mid-on, however, sent back

Humphrey at 125, the fieldsman falling in the effort to secure the ball. Then Read went – the customary result of a long combined stand being that both batsmen eventually retire within a few minutes of each other. Earnshaw, Elliott and Pooley all did their *devoir*, but the innings eventually closed for 222 runs less than that of Yorkshire.

Mr Wyld and Pooley commenced the second Surrey essay, and when the former was dismissed by Bates he had made all the seven runs scored.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 11)

With the exception of Pooley, who hit with great vigour, none of the Surrey team made much headway against the Yorkshire bowling at the Oval on Saturday. From the full score affixed it will be seen that Yorkshire won by an innings and 123 runs.

16 August: THE CHELTENHAM WEEK

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2403.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 6)

The above week may now be regarded as a recognized fact. Such excellent cricket is usually provided that those who love the game for itself visit the College ground on purpose to witness the play, while the other frequenters of "weeks" have, apart from the cricket, enough in the way of theatres and other amusements to entertain them. It was started yesterday, in somewhat gloomy weather, with a match between Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire.

Play commenced at 12.20, when the visitors, successful in the toss, sent in Oscroft and Shrewsbury, Dr W G Grace and Midwinter leading the attack. The start was not at all so hopeful as the excellent state of the ground might have led one to expect, as Oscroft was clean bowled after a dozen runs had been obtained, while his companion was disposed of when a trifle over twice that number was registered. Barnes and Selby now occupied the vacated wickets. The run-getting continued to be slow. At length Barnes made an off-drive for four off the professional. Not much headway was made, however, as Selby was soon bowled off the handle of his bat. Three wickets, 49 runs. Flowers succeeded, and batting, bowling and fielding were excellent. Dr W G Grace retired in favour of Woof at 58, and with an addition of seven runs luncheon was served.

The interval having expired, the total gradually rose, and it was not until 81 had been reached that a good catch at wicket got rid of Flowers. The vacancy was occupied by Scotton, who played well for a few overs before being taken at square leg. Barnes continued to bat well . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 10)

The weather was again gloomy at Cheltenham in the forenoon yesterday, but it brightened later on. Barnes (the not out with 112) appeared at the wickets with Shaw as a companion, Midwinter and Mr W G Grace having charge of the bowling.

In the fourth over Shaw gave a difficult chance to square-leg. Both batsmen hit with considerable freedom for some overs. Each made drives for four, while Barnes also cut Midwinter for a like number. The total having advanced to 255, Woof relieved Mr Grace, and in his second over Shaw was taken at the wicket. Eight for 256 runs. The last two batsmen added 16, when Barnes, who had played sterling cricket, fell to a catch at cover point and the innings closed.

The home county then went in, Drs E M and W G Grace having to withstand the attacks of Shaw and Morley. A quartet fell to each batsman, but at 24 the first-named retired, clean bowled. Midwinter stayed while a dozen runs were added, when he suffered a similar fate; while nine runs later Mr Townsend, who succeeded him, was stumped. Mr G F Grace joined his brother. Both batsmen hit in a most effective manner for some little time and brought on a change in the attack, but at length the Gloucestershire

captain was run out, the wicket being thrown down by Flowers. Four for 79 runs.

Mr Moberly arrived, and at 4 o'clock a hundred runs were signalled. The bowling was again changed, and 28 runs later Mr Moberly played the ball back to the bowler. Half the wickets were now lost. The next three batsmen added 34 runs. Mr Fairbanks joined Mr G F Grace, and the scoring became very slow, both batsmen playing with commendable care; and when stumps were drawn 170 runs were registered, 23 more being wanted to save the follow-on. Umpires, Pullin and Carpenter.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 August, page 6)

Yesterday at Cheltenham the weather was a little brighter, perhaps, than on Monday and Tuesday. The game between these counties was resumed at 11.40. It may be remembered that on the previous evening Gloucestershire wanted 23 runs to avert a follow-on, and great interest was naturally felt as to the capability of the two remaining batsmen to obtain this number.

Whatever chance there might have seemed of their getting them was blown to the winds by Mr Fairbanks's wicket being upset by the first ball he received and Mr G F Grace succumbing to a catch at cover point. The last two runs occupied 14 overs and two balls. Five bowlers were tried; Morley claimed five wickets . . .

The home team now had a deficiency of 100 runs to rub out. Drs W G and E M Grace were opposed by Shaw and Morley. The commencement was of a very disheartening character, as four of the best Gloucestershire wickets fell for the poor show of 39, Dr E M Grace well caught at slip, the captain clean bowled, Mr Townsend served in the same way, while Mr G F Grace returned the ball. Mr Moberly and Midwinter offered a much more determined opposition to the bowling which underwent many changes before a one-handed catch at mid-on got rid of Midwinter.

The next comer, Mr Gilbert, infused some animation into the game, 14 of the 16 runs with which he was credited being obtained by four drives, including a five. He was then caught by the wicket-keeper. Neither Mr Cranston nor Mr Gribble made any lengthy stay; and it seemed highly probable that an easy victory remained in store for Nottinghamshire. The steady batting of Mr Fairbanks and Woof, and their resistance to the temptations given them by their rivals of hitting the ball up, averted this disaster for the western county. They retained possession of the wickets until within about 10 minutes of the time for drawing stumps, when Woof fell to Selby just behind point, Mr Fairbanks carrying out his bat for a well played 29. Four bowlers were tried; Morley took five wickets . . . The following score will show that the first match in the Cheltenham week was left drawn.

16 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2405.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 6)

There was a large attendance at Brammall-lane yesterday. The metropolitan party won the toss and decided to bat. The Hon A Lyttelton hit with that vigour for which he was noted at Cambridge, while Mr Vernon maintained the batting capabilities worthy of his old school - Rugby. Mr A J Ford, who remained unconquered, also showed very good form, and the innings did not close until 189 had been made.

Had it not been for the determined play of Lockwood, who went in first wicket down, the display of Yorkshire would have proved a very sorry affair indeed. He secured more runs than the rest of his compeers put together, and when stumps were drawn the home county found themselves with a deficiency of 85.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 10)

Yesterday, at Bramall-lane, the return match between these counties was continued before a considerable number of spectators. Each side on the previous day had completed an innings, and as Yorkshire's runs added to 85 less than those of their rivals a follow-on was inevitable.

Ulyett and Hall were selected first to face Clarke and Mr A F Ford. The start was propitious, as 42 runs were registered before Ulyett was caught at mid-on. Lockwood joined Hall, and 20 runs were put on steadily. A series of disasters then befell the home team, who by lunch time had lost five batsmen and had barely covered the deficiency they began with. Subsequently Grimshaw and Emmett batted freely, but they were parted at 133, and the outstanding wickets adding but 22 Middlesex were left with the easy task of getting 71 runs to win. In the result the visitors won by six wickets.

16 August: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2404.html)

Day 1 – no report found

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 10)

This match was continued at Brighton yesterday. At the end of Monday's play the game stood in the following position: – Sussex, 179 for a complete innings; Surrey, 49 for one wicket.

Elliott went in with Jupp, who was the not out, shortly after 12 o'clock, but remained only while 12 runs were scored, being then caught at slip. Mr Read succeeded. His display did not realize expectations, and terminated at 83. Mr burls became Jupp's fourth partner, but offered little resistance to the bowling by which he was defeated at 95.

Wickets continued to be somewhat easily obtained. Pooley played a ball on to his stumps, and Mr J Shuter signally failed, both wickets falling at 107, and four runs later Jupp's meritorious innings came to an end. Read and Humphrey were then associated, and the bowling resources of Sussex were severely taxed. They divided the honours tolerably evenly and scored between them 113 runs. The innings realized 254, and with its close play ceased for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 August, page 6)

At the close of the second day's play in this match, commenced at Brighton on Monday, each side had completed an innings with an advantage of 75 runs to Surrey, and Sussex had made 67 runs in their second venture without suffering any loss. Yesterday Mr Ellis and Lillywhite, the not outs, respectively with 25 and 40, went in at 20 minutes to 12 to continue their innings.

Potter and Blamires were the selected bowlers, and the former disposed of Lillywhite before he had time to increase his score. The association of Howard and Mr Ellis was productive of very attractive batting, and caused Surrey much anxiety. Mr Read supplanted Blamires; Potter was removed in favour of the colt Read, who in turn had to give way to Elliott, but it mattered little who handled the ball. Mr Ellis batted in brilliant style, while Howard showed excellent defence.

Further changes were in consequence resorted to. Mr L A Shuter took the ball from Mr Read; at 150 Potter resumed in place of Elliott, and 151 saw the two early bowlers reinstated. With the score advanced to 155 Howard was clean bowled. Charlwood occupied the vacated spot and again the batting triumphed. Blamires was displaced by Mr Read at 176, and from the first ball of the lobs a catch at point got rid of the last comer.

Humphreys joined Mr Ellis. Once more the attacking party were puzzled. Several tactics were adopted, but 224 runs were totalled before Mr Ellis was run out. His almost faultless innings included eleven fours, two threes and sixteen twos. Four wickets were now down, and two others fell for an addition of eight runs. The last four averaged but nine runs, and the venture closed for 268.

Surrey were thus set the task of getting 194 runs to win; but their chance of success was very remote, as time was getting short. In all probability the visitors would have secured the requisite number had the match been continued. As it was, they lost but four wickets for 108 runs, and a draw resulted . . .

Friday 20 August: THE AUSTRALIANS v ENGLAND

It is understood that this match has at length been definitely arranged to be played at Kennington-oval. The date will probably be September 6. Those who have the matter in hand are confident of being able to organize a strong team to meet the Colonials.

19 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2406.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 3)

The return match between these counties formed the second feature in the programme of the Cheltenham cricket week. The first engagement at the Oval ended in a victory for Surrey, a performance, judging from yesterday's play, which they may probably be able to repeat on the present occasion. They, for once in a way, were successful with the toss and went in on a capital wicket, of which they kept possession the whole of the day.

Mr L A Shuter and Jupp began the batting, the bowlers being Dr W G Grace and Midwinter. The opening was not so very good, as Jupp, who had made a quartet by a square-leg hit, lost the society of Mr L A Shuter – played on. Mr J Shuter gave a hard chance to slip after he had made only three runs – an escape which stood the visitors in good stead. He very nearly monopolized the hitting until 29 was reached, when Jupp was capitally taken at slip. Mr W W Read filled the vacancy, and did so in a very able manner. Against Mr W Read and Mr J Shuter the whole of the bowling of which Gloucestershire were possessed was brought to bear. Change followed change in pretty quick order; but the batting continued to be in the ascendant, and at luncheon no less than 100 runs were recorded.

After the repast a parting was soon effected, as before he had added anything Mr J Shuter succumbed to a catch at mid-on. His principal hits were eight fours, one three and four twos. Three wickets, 104 runs. Humphrey, the next comer, was out through attempting a difficult run; and Mr Wyld was clean bowled before he could get well set. Read, a professional, came to the assistance of Mr W W Read. Both of them played excellent cricket; and again the Gloucestershire bowling was mastered. The 200 was passed at 4.50, and after 27 more were made Mr Read, who had got to within seven of his "century," was superbly caught at long-on. His hits included an off-drive for five, ten fours and eight twos.

Pooley joined Read, and again the batting triumphed, both of these batsmen remaining unconquered when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 8)

The Cheltenham week bids fair to be successful to the end. Yesterday the weather was again fine, and again the attendance proved large. Read and Pooley continued the Surrey batting at 11.40; Midwinter and Mr W G Grace conducted the early bowling.

Forty minutes proved sufficient to capture the outstanding wickets. Read, who had batted so well on the previous day, only added a single before being run out. His hits comprised five fours, three threes, nine twos &c. Seven for 278 runs. The last three only added seven, and the innings thus closed for 215. No less than seven bowlers had been tried, three with success – Midwinter claimed five wickets . . .

The home county began batting a few minutes past 1 o'clock with Mr Fairbanks and Mr W G Grace. Potter and Blamires were the bowlers. The batting was very promising for a little time, but when 10 had been registered Mr Fairbanks was completely beaten by Blamires. Mr Gilbert

joined Mr W G Grace, and they both succeeded in keeping their wickets up until luncheon, the most important items out of the 50 runs then obtained being a cut by Mr W G Grace and an on-drive by Mr Gilbert, from each of which hits four runs resulted.

Before much opportunity had been given to Mr Gilbert of augmenting his score he was taken at slip. Midwinter and Mr W G Grace brought on many variations in the attack and at length the Gloucestershire captain skied the ball to square leg, when Humphrey carefully secured it. Among his hits were four fours, five threes and three twos. Mr Townsend, who so often bats well when once set, soon caused his opponents some anxiety, and again the bowling was altered. Sixteen runs, however, were made by the last arrival in four hits. He continued to play well and sent the ball in all directions. Both batsmen scored freely to the end of the day . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 6)

The Cheltenham week finished up with one of the surprises of cricket. After the heavy scoring of the two previous days, it was thought exceedingly improbable that the match between Gloucestershire and Surrey could be got through on Saturday. The visitors had amassed the large total of 285; but this was exceeded by their rivals, whose last wicket fell for 351.

There was a great falling off in the form shown by Surrey in their second venture. With the exception of Mr J Shuter and Elliott, none of them could withstand the bowling of their rivals, and their joint efforts only realized 117. Gloucestershire now required 52 runs to win, which number Dr W G Grace and Mr Gilbert soon put together. The appended score will show that the home team were victors by 10 wickets. Umpires - Street and Pullin.

19 August: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2409.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 3)

A capital start was made by Yorkshire in the return match with Derbyshire, commenced yesterday on the St John's ground, Huddersfield. Winning the toss, they went to the wickets with Ulyett and Mr Ellis. The latter did not prove very useful, nor did Lockwood, but on the association of Emmett and Ulyett the batting triumphed, assisted in a measure by indifferent fielding. Bowling changes were frequent but ineffective, and no fewer than 110 runs were accomplished by the joint efforts of the two mentioned.

Grimshaw and Peate both proved useful, tieing with 27, and the venture realized 226. Derbyshire, thanks principally to Mr Cursham, had put together 72 runs for the loss of three wickets, when the day's proceedings closed.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 8)

When proceedings ceased in this match on the first day, Yorkshire had completed an innings for 226 runs, and Derbyshire had lost three wickets for 72. So far the visitors had not fared badly, but the aspect of the game at Huddersfield soon changed yesterday. The outstanding wickets proved, with one exception, easy to obtain. Indeed, Platts's free hitting stood out conspicuously among so much that was feeble. Of 55 runs secured for seven wickets, he claimed 32.

The number accumulated soon left Derbyshire with a deficiency of 99, and they consequently had to follow on. Indifferent as was their first venture, the second compared most unfavourably. It did not realize half the sum, and Yorkshire were thus victorious by an innings and 37 runs.

19 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2407.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 3)

At the St Lawrence ground, Canterbury, these counties yesterday began their return match on an excellent wicket. Kent, who were not fully represented, were successful in the toss, and opened on the defensive at 12.15 with Mr Patterson and the Hon Ivo Bligh. Nash and Watson were the chosen bowlers of Lancashire.

Mr Patterson, who scored much slower than his partner, was the first to go. Hearne joined Mr Bligh, who, after scoring 33 of 46 runs, was neatly taken at slip. Lord Harris and Hearne now became associated, and as they seemed likely to become troublesome, Mr Appleby went on in place of Nash. The change took effect almost directly, Hearne being the victim. In an hour and three-quarters 76 runs were made, but subsequently to the usual interval Lord Harris was clean bowled before any addition was effected. Draper stayed only with Mr Jones while four runs were put on, and the amateur was disposed of at 83. Mr Mackinnon was seventh wicket down, with the figures at 99, and only three runs were averaged by the remainder, the innings terminating for 108. Mr Appleby bowled with great effect.

A fine display of hitting by Mr Hornby was the chief feature of the Lancashire innings, so far as it had progressed by the end of the day. He alone showed anything like a stubborn resistance to the Kentish bowling, and of 145 runs obtained for the loss of eight wickets he claimed nearly one half.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 8)

In this return match, commenced on Thursday at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, play was resumed as early as a quarter-past 11 yesterday morning. Overnight Lancashire had lost eight wickets of their first innings for 145 runs, and already possessed a balance of 37. Half an hour sufficed to bring the venture to a conclusion for an additional 28 runs.

No great measure of success was accorded Kent at the opening portion of their second essay. With only eight runs registered, Mr Bligh was caught at third man, and at 21 Hearne played on. A little improvement was shown during the time Lord Harris and Mr Patterson were together, but at 47 the former was clean bowled, and Mr Patterson did not maintain his position for a great while subsequently. Messrs Jones and Mackinnon and O'Shaughnessy gave some trouble, and principally through their efforts the total advanced to 150.

The task of getting 86 runs was thus set Lancashire. Barlow met with more success than in the previous innings. Mr Royle played well, and in the result the visitors won by eight wickets.

19 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2408.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 3)

Yesterday, on the Trent-bridge ground, Nottingham, these counties commenced their second match of the present season. Middlesex won the toss and elected to begin batting.

The attack was conducted by Shaw and Morley, and when only a dozen runs were recorded Messrs Webbe and Walker, the early batsmen, were separated. Mr Walker remained but only for a brief period – caught at slip. Two more wickets fell before 20 runs were obtained, and no one seemed able to make amends for these early disasters. Mr Thornton, as usual, indulged in a little free hitting; but in about two hours the whole of the visitors had been disposed of for 93 runs.

Notts, for whom Barnes played a remarkably good innings of 71, were more fortunate than their rivals, and at the end of the day's play had one wicket to fall, with 172 runs made.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 8)

At Trent-bridge, Nottingham, on Thursday evening, stumps were drawn when each county had completed an innings, an advantage of 79 runs then resting with Nottinghamshire, who scored 172.

Yesterday the visitors began a second innings opposed by Morley and Barnes. Mr Thornton and the Hon A Lyttelton were the early representatives, and a most encouraging start was effected, the first over yielding six runs. At 13, however, Mr Lyttelton made way for Mr A Ford, and having secured 25 out of 41, Mr Thornton was well taken at cover point. Mr Ford saw Mr Pearson caught at slip at 51, and 20 runs later he also lost his position. Messrs Webbe and Walker remained associated a very short period, and both were dismissed by catches at slip.

With the downfall of Mr Vernon at 91 the Middlesex hopes fell, but Mr Henery and Clarke did good service. The innings ultimately closed for 151 runs, leaving Notts 73 to win. In accomplishing this task they lost five good wickets.

23 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2411.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 6)

As in their match with Gloucestershire, Surrey occupied the wickets the whole of the day against Lancashire at Kennington Oval yesterday. The home party having won the toss sent in Jupp and Mr L Shuter. The bowling was left to the care of Watson and Nash.

The first ball of the second over proved fatal to the amateur, who was clean bowled. Mr J Shuter made two cuts for four, to which Jupp responded with a leg hit for five; but from the next delivery the last comer was given out leg before wicket. Two for 19 runs. Mr W W Read joined Jupp, and the batting soon got the upper hand. The 50 was reached after 45 minutes' play, and six runs later Mr Appleby relieved Nash. This did not answer, so the latter resumed at 75, while the former crossed over; and at 85 Mr Read got his leg in front of the wicket. Among his hits were two fives (a cut and a leg hit), a four, two threes and five twos. Humphrey came, and six overs were sent down for a single, and when the recent arrival had added a cut for three he fell to a catch in the slips. Read assisted Jupp, and at 97 Watson relieved Mr Appleby. The hundred was signalled at 2 o'clock, when luncheon intervened.

Little could be done with Watson for some time after the interval, but his good bowling was somewhat spoiled by his missing a return ball from Read. Soon afterwards Mr Hornby went on in lieu of Nash, but the latter again resumed. Neither of these tactics had the desired effect, so at 144 Barlow was tried. A separation came from the opposite wicket, however, Read being clean bowled before even a single could be added. Half the wickets, 144 runs. Pooley and Jupp were unable to score much for some time. Mr Appleby came on at 100, and a couple of singles were the only items in 22 overs of Barlow's. The bowling was twice changed before a separation was effected, when Pooley retired clean bowled.

Elliott filled the vacancy, and the 200 was reached at 5.35. a dozen runs afterwards, a magnificent catch at point disposed of Jupp, who had made 90, by a hit to leg for five, ten fours, two threes, seven twos and singles. Seven for 212 runs. The three remaining wickets added 14. Stumps were now drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from 25 August, page 11)

Yesterday was dull and heavy, but the attendance was large at the Oval to witness the continuation of this match. The whole of the previous day had been occupied in getting Surrey out. Lancashire began batting shortly after noon with Barlow and Mr Hornby, Blamires and Potter taking charge of the ball.

The commencement was very hopeful, as 20 were speedily put together. A change was therefore deemed necessary, so Barrett relieved Blamires, and Mr Hornby was immediately afterwards out - l.b.w., while at 29 Mr Royle fell to a catch at slip. Two wickets down. Mr Taylor joined Barlow, and for a short time all went well, until at 43 the new comer was caught at wicket, while Robinson, who took his place, received his dismissal at the hands of the same fieldsman eight runs later. Mr Lancashire aided Barlow, who

played into the hands of slip at 56. Half the wickets were now lost. Pilling succumbed to a fine catch at mid-off. Messrs Rowley and Lancashire kept together until the luncheon interval, when the total stood at 69.

Blamires and Barratt resumed the bowling afterwards. Mr Rowley's chief item was an off-drive for 4, and then he retired, caught at cover-point, while two runs later his companion was clean bowled. Mr Appleby and Watson kept the game alive for a little time, bringing on a change in the bowling at 97, Potter relieving Blamires. The other bowler - Barratt - brought about a parting by bowling Watson. Nine for 97. Nash and Mr Appleby caused the 100 to be signalled at 3.10; but thirteen runs later the former was caught at cover-point. Time 3.25. Three bowlers were tried; Barratt claimed eight wickets . . .

Having only succeeded in gaining half the number secured by their rivals, Lancashire followed on at 3.40. As in the previous venture, Mr Hornby and Barlow opened the defence, and they soon gave their rivals plenty of trouble. In spite of the bowling being varied between Potter, Blamires, Barratt and Elliott, they put on 59 runs in as many minutes. Mr Hornby, who had batted with great vigour, gave a chance in the slips to Mr J Shuter at 67, and soon afterwards he gave a difficult opportunity to Mr read at point. Profiting by these indulgences, he continued to hit in a very free style, making several very fine drives to the boundary for four. At length Barlow, who had shown his usual careful defence, was caught at slip. One for 98 runs.

Mr Royle arrived, and again the batting had the mastery. The 100 was recorded at 5.15. Still runs were put together smartly; but at last Mr Hornby stepped out to a ball of Potter's, missed it and was clean-bowled. His innings was a grand exhibition of batting, and consisted of three fives (drives), 13 fours, five threes, 11 twos &c. Mr Taylor supplied the vacancy; and the score slowly travelled to 188, when Blamires was tried, and in his first over he bowled Mr Royle's middle stump. Robinson hit the first ball he received to the off for five, and a few overs later stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 9)

There was a marked falling off in the attendance at Kennington Oval yesterday when the above counties resumed hostilities. Mr Taylor and Robinson continued the second innings of Lancashire, who, on the previous evening, had obtained 197 runs for the loss of three wickets. Potter and Barratt were the bowlers.

The professional made a couple of cuts for four, and at 217 fell to a catch at point; and Mr Lancashire, having scored an off drive for two, ran himself out. Pilling supplied the vacancy. Mr Taylor made a leg-hit for four and added seven by three off drives. At 242, Blamires relieved Barratt. The other bowler, however, brought about a separation by upsetting Pilling's wicket. Six for 243 runs. Mr Rowley joined Mr Taylor, who made a lucky hit to leg for four; and 250 were reached at 1 o'clock. Ten (including a cut for four) having been added, Barratt took the ball from Blamires. This did not have a very deterrent effect on the run-getting. Mr Royle, in one over, made a drive on either side of the wicket for four and a cut for two.

A change was then tried at the other end. Potter gave way to Elliott at 272, but 19 runs afterwards Mr W W Read was tried in place of the latter.

The 300 was registered at 25 minutes to 2, the last 50 having been obtained in 35 minutes. The end came soon after this stage had been reached, as, with an addition of three runs, Mr Taylor was stumped, and eight later Mr Rowley fell at the wicket. At 314 Mr Appleby and Nash were both disposed of; the former clean bowled and the latter caught at slip. Time 1h 55min. Five bowlers were engaged; Barratt claimed five wickets . . .

Luncheon having intervened, Surrey sent in Mr W W Read and Jupp to commence getting the 202 runs needed for victory. Watson and Nash led the attack. The home team started well, 40 runs having been made in a quarter of an hour - two cuts, a leg hit and an off drive, from each of which four were obtained, being included in this number. Mr Appleby, therefore, came on in place of Watson at 43, and in his second over he clean bowled Jupp. Mr L A Shuter gained a lucky four, but at 53 he lost Mr Read - clean bowled. The professional Read arrived, and the amateur, after being missed at slip, effected an on drive for five, which he supplemented with a leg hit for four - both off Mr Appleby. This brought Watson on in his stead at 78. Read cut him for four in the first over, the last ball of which, however, he returned. Three for 82 runs.

Mr J Shuter, who had hurt his leg on the previous day, had Mr Read to run for him. Neither of the brothers stayed long - both of them being clean bowled. Half the wickets, 97 runs. The next two wickets added a dozen - Pooley and Humphrey caught at wicket, the former being a very doubtful affair. Blamires was run out and Elliott clean bowled. Barratt gained an on drive for five, and called forth the most hearty enthusiasm by his free hitting. At last Potter was caught at short leg. Total 141. Four bowlers were put on and they all took wickets . . . The full score appended will show that Lancashire were victors by 60 runs.

23 August: SUSSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2412.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 6)

In the return match between these counties, commenced yesterday at the Hove, Brighton, the cricket proved of a most one-sided character. The choice of innings fell to Sussex, and they elected to begin batting. Mr Ellis and Lillywhite were selected as the first pair of batsmen, while the conduct of the attack was intrusted to Hay and Mycroft.

A very unpromising commencement was made, as before a run was recorded Lillywhite played a ball on to his wicket, and both Mr King and Mr Ellis had been placed on the dismissed list when but 12 runs were registered. For a considerable time Humphreys and Charlwood kept possession; at 41, however, the latter received a nasty blow from a quickly rising ball, and the following delivery disposed of him. Four wickets were now down, and the six that remained realized but four runs. The bowling of Hay, who took six wickets for 16 runs in 15 overs, mainly contributed to so speedy a collapse.

On behalf of Derbyshire, Rigley and Mr Shuker first faced the attacks of Lillywhite and Juniper. Both batted in fine free style, and innumerable bowling changes occurred previous to the dismissal of Rigley by a catch at extra mid-off. One wicket; 75 runs. Upon the association of Mr Shuker and Platts, the batting was even more brilliant, and again the bowling resources of Sussex were severely taxed. Numerous plans were adopted in the hope of effecting a separation, but 138 runs were recorded before Platts was caught at mid-off. Mr Shuker was the third to go, with the score at 144. He had given one chance, but otherwise his display could scarcely be found fault with. It comprised five fours, four threes, six twos &c.

At 153 Mr Cursham returned the ball to the bowler, and this left Foster and Mr R P Smith together. Another stubborn defence was set up, the result of which was an addition of 40 runs. A catch at mid-off then got rid of Foster, and no further stand was effected, the second half of the wickets realizing but 33 runs. The innings closed for 226 runs. Sussex began a second innings at 6 o'clock, and by 6.15 had scored 25 runs without loss of wicket.

Day 2 (report from 25 August, page 11)

Yesterday the part played by Sussex in this match was highly creditable, but the poor score made by them in their first innings prevented the conclusion being vested with much interest. At the close of Monday's proceedings, the home team had, without loss, obtained 25 of the 181 runs they were behind on first innings. Messrs Ellis and Greenfield were the not outs respectively, with 9 and 16, and in splendid weather these two, at 12.10, took up their positions, having to withstand the deliveries of Mycroft and Hay.

An addition to the score was effected off the first ball bowled, and both batsmen batted in careful style. Slowly the total was advanced to 33, at which stage a smart catch some few yards behind the wicket disposed of Mr Greenfield. On the arrival of Lillywhite some lively batting occurred,

each batsman driving Hay to the on for four, and both being accredited with a like number for a leg hit. An end to this fast run-getting came at 56, when a similar catch to that which got rid of Mr Greenfield caused the retirement of the Sussex captain. Charlwood, who succeeded, assisted the side wonderfully. During his association with Lillywhite the first bowling change occurred. Shaw went on at 64 in place of Hay, and secured a very hard return off his fourth ball from Lillywhite. Three for 65.

Mr King, the next comer, hit in vigorous style. He was caught by the wicket-keeper. Mr Sclater remained with Charlwood until 138 runs were registered, when his leg impeded the progress of a straight ball, and he had to make way for Humphreys. At lunch time the score stood at 146, but the first ball subsequently saw Humphreys neatly taken at slip. Joined by A Payne, Charlwood continued to hit exceedingly well, driving Hay both sides of the wicket and playing Shaw to leg, for each of which four runs were placed to his credit. At 182, however, his brilliant innings, the best he has played for his county, terminated. In it were eight fours, a three and five twos. Seven wickets had now gone, and the three remaining added 26, the last being disposed of at five minutes past 4.

At half-past 4 Derbyshire started the task of getting 31 runs, with Mr Shuker and Rigley opposed by Juniper and Lillywhite. The fielding of Sussex was good and runs came slowly. At 16 a splendid catch at point got rid of Rigley. Mr Shuker and Platts, however, quickly hit off the requisite number, and at five minutes past 5 Derbyshire had won by nine wickets.

23 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2410.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 6)

This match was commenced at Clifton yesterday in the presence of a large gathering of spectators. First to undertake the defence were the Gloucestershire team, Drs W G Grace and E M Grace taking their stand at the wickets to face the bowling of Peate and Hill.

Dr W G Grace quickly drove Peate for four to the off, while his brother scored three off the same bowler shortly afterwards. The first misfortune befell the Yorkshire team when their opponents had added 15. Here Dr E M Grace was badly missed, and afterwards runs came very quickly. Emmett replaced Peate at 50. This had the desired effect, Dr E M Grace being caught and bowled by the new-comer. The figures continued to mount up rapidly, however, Mr Gilbert being the incomer. He was eventually disposed of by Ulyett, after having contributed 39 in good style. At luncheon time the state of affairs was 131 for three wickets, Midwinter, the last in, having been given out, caught at wicket.

Mr G F Grace then faced his brother, and again the score mounted up fast until, in spite of bowling changes, Gloucestershire had made 181. Lockwood and Blake then replaced Peate and Hill, and at 190 Dr W G Grace was clean bowled, having made a fine score of 89. Rain now caused a cessation of the game for a time. On the resumption, Messrs Moberly and G F Grace did well, but in the end were disposed of; and when stumps were drawn for the evening the record stood at 231 for a loss of six wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 August, page 11)

With half-a-dozen batsmen on the retired list as the result of the first day's (Monday's) play, and with 231 on the record, Gloucestershire yesterday at Clifton resumed batting operations, Mr Townsend (not out, 4) being joined by Mr Cranston, the opposing bowlers being Bates and Peate.

A dozen runs having been added, Mr Cranston was dismissed through the agency of the wicket-keeper. Mr Gribble, the new arrival, was missed at cover-point and Mr Townsend at long field off, but neither chance was an easy one, and at 268 Emmett bowled vice Peate. At 272 Mr Gribble was bowled, and at 296 - Emmett and Bates having previously been relieved by Bates and Hill - Mr Tonge (one of the Cheltenham College Eleven) was run out. Woof's stay was not a lengthy one. Mr Townsend's innings was characterized by great patience and was singularly free from faults.

The primary pair of batsmen for Yorkshire were Bates and Ulyett, Dr W G Grace with Midwinter undertaking the bowling. The batsmen were in fine hitting form and the score was rapidly advanced, so that at 42 Mr G F Grace took the place of Dr W G Grace in bowling. When the total had reached 56 both Ulyett and Bates were dismissed, the first-named by a catch at the wicket and Bates being bowled. Emmett and Lockwood were now associated, but at 71 the last mentioned was bowled and Hall took his place. So steadily did the runs come that Gilbert and Woof and then Dr W G Grace all tried their hand. After Hall had been bowled, Grimshaw joined Emmett, who, after batting both vigorously and with considerable care, at length fell a victim to Dr W G Grace in the slips.

No prolonged stay with Grimshaw was made by any of the remaining batsmen; but when "time" was announced the colt still remained unconquered, and with Peate brought out his bat to resume his innings to-day. From the subjoined score it will be seen that Yorkshire are still 107 runs in arrear of the Gloucester total with but one wicket to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 9)

It seemed highly improbable yesterday morning that the match between these counties would be brought to a definite issue. The good play of Gloucestershire, however, has again asserted itself, and they scored another victory. Yorkshire's opening innings was brought to a summary close, as the first ball delivered Grimshaw played into the hands of point. Total 195.

As they were 108 behind, the visitors, of course, followed on. Ulyett and Hill faced the attacks of Dr W G Grace and Midwinter. Before a tenth of the number wanted to avert a single-innings defeat had been obtained, Ulyett's off-stump was disturbed. Lockwood exhibited his usual sturdy play, and two changes in the bowling were resorted to, Woof and Mr Gilbert taking the places of Dr W G Grace and Midwinter. Want of judgment caused the downfall of Hill at 36. Emmett and Lockwood soon gave the home team considerable anxiety. The bowling was again altered, but it was not until the total had almost been doubled that the last comer was clean bowled. Bates retired through being too venturesome. Grimshaw arrived and soon gave a chance to square leg, which was missed, and when the interval was reached the total stood at 88.

The early overs immediately afterwards proved very disastrous to Yorkshire. Without any addition, Grimshaw succumbed to the bowler. Seven runs later Lockwood hit the wicket with his leg, while at 105 both Burrows and Hill collapsed - the former returning the ball and the latter being caught at square leg. A most remarkable alteration in the aspect of the game was affected during the partnership of Blake and Pinder. Despite the many changes in the attack, they both set it at naught, and to their efforts is mainly due the fairly large total of Yorkshire. The last-named batted in very fine style until he was clean bowled.

Gloucestershire wanted 84 for victory when they started a second venture. Four of the batsmen showed marked inability to cope with the attacks of the northerners; but Dr W G Grace hit with great freedom and gained nearly three-quarters of the required number, the home team eventually finding themselves winners by six wickets.

26 August: KENT v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2415.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 10)

The very close weather at Maidstone yesterday, when the above return match commenced, betokened the thunderstorm which broke over the ground late in the afternoon. Derbyshire won the toss and took possession of the wickets at 12.15. Their efforts against the bowling of Mr Cunliffe and G Hearne were, however, of the most feeble character and need no description. The first wicket realized nothing . . and tenth 55. Mr Cunliffe captured six wickets . . .

The Kent start showed little, if any, improvement on that of their rivals. Three of their batsmen collapsed for 10 runs only. Lord Harris and Mr Mackinnon improved the state of affairs, but at length the latter fell to a catch at wicket and the former was run out – a very close affair. Among the Kent captain's hits were four fours and three twos. At 5 o'clock there was a heavy thunderstorm, and proceedings were suspended for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 10)

Derbyshire showed but little improvement yesterday at the Mote-park, Maidstone, on their form of the previous day. They then completed an innings for 55 runs, while their opponents had lost nine of their batsmen for 109. The outstanding Kentish wicket was captured at a cost of 13 runs. four bowlers were engaged – Mycroft claimed five wickets . . .

The visitors, 67 runs behind, entered on their second innings with Mr A Shuker and Rigley. G Hearne and Mr Cunliffe were the bowlers. Four runs were made from five overs, and then Mr Shuker was caught in the slips, and ten runs later Platts hit a ball to the "off," where Lord Harris secured it. Mr R P Smith, after having been vainly appealed against for leg before, drove the ball to the "on" for a quartet. He soon, however, succumbed to a catch at cover point, and shortly afterwards Rigley suffered a similar fate, while Foster, who succeeded him, returned the ball.

Half the wickets were now down for 30, and a single innings victory seemed in store for Kent. This looked more probable when, five runs afterwards, Mr Cursham was caught at short leg. Hay and Mr Barrington were the only pair who offered any marked resistance to the attacks of the home team. The bowling was frequently changed before the professional was clean-bowled at 83. The three remaining wickets only added 20 runs. Mr Barrington caught at long-on, Mycroft 1-b-w and Shaw bowled middle stump. Total 103. Four bowlers were engaged; Mr Cunliffe took five wickets . . .

Kent wanted 37 to win, and these were speedily obtained by Mr Patterson and Mr L Bligh. The following score will show that Kent were victorious by ten wickets . . .

26 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2414.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 10)

With Lancashire as opponents, Gloucestershire began their last match of the present season yesterday. The scene of action was the Clifton College ground, on which a capital wicket had been prepared. Lancashire were successful in the toss and went in.

Midwinter and Woof first undertook the attack, and their efforts met with early reward, as when only 10 runs were registered Mr Hornby, Barlow and Mr Royle had all been disposed of. Mr Taylor and Robinson made ample amends and brought about several alterations in the mode of attack. Mrs W G and E M Grace went on at 40 in place of the early bowlers, but, as nothing seemed easier than scoring from the latter, he handed the ball back to Woof. This change occurred at 61, but did not stay the run-getting.

A chance of catching Robinson at extra long-on was not utilized and the total advanced to 81, at which stage Mr Gilbert relieved Woof. Only seven runs were made subsequently, when Robinson was taken in the long field. Messrs Lancashire and Taylor were together while 60 runs were compiled, the former then playing a ball on to his wicket . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 10)

Continuing the innings left half completed on Thursday, yesterday saw Gloucestershire successful by five wickets. On Thursday Gloucestershire had lost five wickets for but 58 runs, Dr W G Grace being not out with 6 and Mr Day with 4 runs. The last named increased his total to 28, but Dr W G Grace, batting in fine form and never giving a chance away, increased his score to 106 before he was caught at slip – a very fine catch and low down, with the total at 223. In his figures were nine fours, five threes and 15 twos. During the continuance of the Gloucestershire innings several bowling changes were tried – Nash, Watson, Mr Appleby and Barlow all having a turn.

In a minority of 63 runs, Lancashire commenced their second innings, which, however, turned out a complete fiasco, 85 being all that the united efforts of the batsmen could compile. Robinson, Mr Appleby and Watson were the only persons who could do anything with the bowling of Woof and Midwinter, and but 23 runs were required of Gloucestershire to achieve victory. The Lancashire men allowing a prolongation of time in order to further this result, finally lost by seven wickets.

30 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2417.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 8)

The second match of the present season between these counties saw a commencement yesterday at Kennington Oval. The most noticeable feature of the day's proceedings was the batting of Mr J Shuter. It may indeed be said that for attractiveness of style and faultless hitting it has scarcely been excelled this season, and the catch that put an end to the display was one of the most brilliant hits of fielding ever witnessed.

Surrey were successful in the toss, and elected to open the batting on a really excellent wicket. Messrs Shuter and Read were the selected pair, and Mr Cunliffe and G Hearne were commissioned to lead the attack. A sample of Mr Shuter's hitting qualities was soon shown, and when by an off-drive for five from Mr Cunliffe he caused the total to advance to 20, O'Shaughnessy took the ball at the pavilion wicket. At 29, however, Mr Cunliffe was tried again at the lower end, which seemed for a time to suit him better. A fine square-leg hit by Mr Read from O'Shaughnessy immediately preceded that bowler's retirement in favour of Wootton; but these changes did not diminish the pace of the run-getting. Twice Mr Read cut the new bowler for four and obtained a similar number by snicking the ball off the amateur. Mr Shuter secured two fours for off drives, and by means of this brisk hitting 60 runs were registered in three-quarters of an hour.

With the addition of ten a piece of bad judgment cost the side their first wicket - that of Mr Read. This no inconsiderable loss was followed by the incoming of Jupp, who, after scoring a fifth share of the runs made while he was batting, directed a ball into the hands of slip. Two for 95. Read, the colt, went to the assistance of Mr Shuter, who continued to bat most effectively. A remarkably fine cut for five by the latter increased the total to three figures by ten minutes past 1, and at this period G Hearne disposed Mr Cunliffe, while at 117 Mr O'Shaughnessy received the ball back from Wootton. The association had realized 28 runs when read was neatly taken at mid-off, and Mr Wyld joined Mr Shuter. Two changes were effected in the bowling, but lunch time found the partnership still existing, the score then standing at 151 for three wickets. Of this number Mr Shuter claimed 95, and upon resuming he made the nine runs added previous to the dismissal of Mr Wyld. The next to go was Mr Shuter, caught splendidly at cover point by Mr Bligh, with one hand. In his contribution were two fives, eleven fours, six threes and as many twos.

Half the wickets were now down, and Humphrey and Mr Trollope were together. The latter, who played exceedingly steadily, soon lost the company of Humphrey. And Pooley remained but a short while, the wickets going respectively at 181 and 204. A more stubborn resistance was offered by Mr Trollope and Blamires, and it was not until 242 runs were accumulated that the last named made room for Potter, who saw the two remaining wickets fall for an addition of 15. Mr Trollope's innings was one of considerable merit. By a quarter to 5 Surrey were all out for 257 runs, made against five bowlers.

In a very bad light, Kent at 5 o'clock occupied the wickets with Messrs Mackinnon and Bligh. Barratt and Potter were the early bowlers, but the

assistance of Blamires was sought previous to the disposal of Mr Bligh. The hour's play up to 6 o'clock produced 32 runs and a wicket . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

Brilliant weather and the opportunity of seeing three of England's best batsmen on a fast and true wicket induced several thousands persons to assemble at Kennington Oval yesterday. Stumps were drawn on the previous evening when the home team had completed an innings for 257 runs and Kent had obtained 32 runs without the loss of wicket. Messrs Mackinnon and Bligh were the not-outs with 11 and 15 respectively, and these two were at 11.50 prepared to continue batting.

Potter and Barratt were deputed to bowl, and from the latter, when the total had been advanced to 51, Mr Mackinnon was very neatly taken at slip. Lord Harris joined the Hon Ivo Bligh, and a great deal of anxiety was experienced by the attacking side, owing to the way in which both met whatever description of bowling was brought against them. By eight minutes past 1 the completion of the first hundred was an accomplished fact. When 38 runs had been added Lord Harris returned the ball smartly to Mr Read (who was bowling slow round), but escaped the catch that seemed imminent. By lunch time 163 runs were registered, and upon a continuance the scoring for a few overs ruled very brisk.

Mr Bligh drove Barratt to the on for five, and Lord Harris placed the same bowler's next ball on the opposite side of the wicket for four. Just 50 runs were obtained in 40 minutes, and then occurred the downfall of the Hon Ivo Bligh's wicket. As on the previous day Mr Shuter's innings closed by a brilliant piece of fielding, so Mr Bligh's of yesterday terminated by a splendid return catch, causing bowler and batsman alike to be warmly applauded. In the Cambridge man's fine contribution of 105, which occupied nearly four hours, were two fives, four fours, six threes and ten twos. No fewer than 157 runs had been produced during the partnership.

Mr Penn filled the vacancy, but it was evident he was not in his best form, and the principal share of the run-getting was performed by Lord Harris. At five minutes to 5 the third hundred was completed, and four runs later the latter's brilliant display ended through a catch at the wicket. In it were a five, eight fours, nine threes and ten twos. G Hearne, the next comer, was clean bowled at 305, and at 311 Mr Penn placed a ball sharply into point's hands. Thus six wickets were down, and three more fell for an addition of 22 runs. Kent have one wicket still to go and possess an advantage of 83 runs . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 September, page 8)

A continuation of this match was effected at Kennington Oval yesterday before a large number of spectators. The heavy scoring which characterized the first two days prevented an innings each being got through, Kent at the close of Tuesday's play having one wicket to fall and an advantage of 84 runs.

Play was resumed at half-past 11, and in a few minutes the venture terminated for 343 runs. In arrear to the extent of 86 runs, Surrey began their second innings with Messrs Shuter and Read at about 12 o'clock. The commencement compared most unfavourably with that of their first essay, neither batsman showing an extraordinary amount of confidence in meeting

the deliveries of Mr Cunliffe and Wootton. Only 15 runs had been made when Mr Shuter was very neatly taken at slip. Jupp joined Mr Read, but the partnership did not exist so long as anticipated, Mr Penn, who had deposed Wootton at 33, clean bowling the amateur in his second over.

Humphrey became Jupp's second partner, making as his first item of importance an on-drive for four from Mr Penn. Jupp played Mr Cunliffe to leg for four, and, following with an off-drive for three, increased the number of runs to 50, the result of as many minutes' batting. A double change of bowling was tried soon afterwards, and at 64 a catch at point disposed of Jupp. Mr Wyld went to the assistance of Humphrey, who continued to oppose the bowling effectively. Five bowlers were engaged in turn during the association, which, after producing 33 runs, closed by Mr Wyld being caught at slip. Humphrey, before any addition was made to the total, slipped a ball into the wicketkeeper's hands, and half the wickets were down with 11 runs "on." Mr Trollope and Read, the colt, were now together, and by lunch-time 113 represented the sum total.

Subsequently Wootton and Mr Cunliffe, as at the commencement, had charge of the bowling, and the latter soon met with success, getting rid of Read with a remarkably good ball. Six for 114. Mr Trollope had Pooley for his second partner, and by the praiseworthy efforts of these two the defeat which seemed almost certain may be said to have been averted. Pooley met with more than his share of good fortune, but with Mr Trollope's batting little fault could be found. Unseparated they remained until the score amounted to 180, when Pooley was clean bowled. In the Surrey wicketkeeper's well-hit 46 were a fine on-drive for six and four fours - three drives and a leg hit. Mr Trollope witnessed Blamires caught and bowled at 193, Potter bowled at 201, and was himself easily caught from a return to the bowler at 207. for two more runs the venture closed at 4.30.

Kent were left with the task of 124 runs to win, and but an hour and a quarter to get them in. Under these circumstances a draw was more probable, if not certain. Messrs Penn and Bligh began at a quarter to five, and hit the bowling of Blamires and Potter very freely. In 20 overs 35 runs were obtained, but at 38 both were disposed of - Mr Penn by an excellent catch at long-off and Mr Bligh by one of equal merit at a position between cover-point and mid-off. After this the cricket was slow, but no further loss was sustained, the contest being left drawn . . .

30 August: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2418.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 8)

Yesterday the annual cricket carnival at Scarborough was commenced with a match entitled as above, the leading club being represented by a formidable team. The visitors had first to take the field, Shaw and Morley opposing Ulyett and Hall.

Very careful batting was shown by Hall, while after a time Ulyett hit freely. Besides the two mentioned, Mr Steel, Barnes and Midwinter handled the ball, but the separation did not occur until 53 runs had been obtained. All but 13 of these belonged to Ulyett, whose place was filled by Lockwood. The last-comer was well taken by short-leg at 59, and at 64 Hall put a ball into the hands of point. Mr Rhodes and Emmett were together while 20 runs were put on. Bates, who went in on the dismissal of Emmett, gave little trouble, caught at mid-on, and the remainder of the wickets added but 38. No fewer than five wickets were lost by M.C.C. before the time arrived for drawing stumps.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

Yesterday play in this match was resumed at Scarborough and concluded, Yorkshire winning by 33 runs. The Marylebone men continued their innings, having lost five wickets for but 35 runs. This small total was rather more than doubled when the last wicket fell.

In their second innings the Yorkshiremen, with but two exceptions, Ulyett and Mr Wheeler, could do but little with the bowling, Mr Steel being particularly difficult to play; and when the last batsman was out M.C.C. only wanted 134 to achieve victory. This number, however, they fell short of, Messrs Lyttelton and Thornton – the latter missed badly twice – with Captain Middleton alone making any lengthened stay at the wickets.

30 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2416.html)

Final report (from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

The return to a match played two months ago at Brighton was commenced at Southampton on Monday and concluded yesterday, Sussex winning the match by five wickets.

2 September: YORKSHIRE v I ZINGARI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2420.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 September, page 8)

The second item in the programme for the above week's cricket – I Zingari v Yorkshire – commenced yesterday. The county, successful in the toss, sent in Ulyett and Lockwood. Messrs Steel and C T Studd took charge of the bowling.

The start was disheartening, as at 5 Ulyett received his dismissal. Mr Wheater did not cause much improvement, for at 18 he retired – caught at cover-point; while Emmett fell a victim to the dexterity of the wicket-keeper. Three for 18 runs. Mr Rhodes and Lockwood were now companions, and caused the fieldsmen considerable trouble. A twofold change was thought advisable, and, in fact, proved more than necessary before a separation could be effected. Both the original bowlers gave way to Captain A Middleton and Mr Gray. These variations had no effect, so Mr Studd resumed in place of the former; with no better success, however, so he crossed over and Mr Steel went on again. The batsmen continued to set these combinations at defiance, and when the usual time for luncheon had arrived, no fewer than 90 runs were recorded.

Another alteration was made on resumption of play, Mr Studd making room for Mr Gray. Lockwood treated the bowling with great severity, his drives being both clean and effective; but at length (having previously been let off at slip) he played the ball into the hands of mid-on. Four for 126 runs. Five only had been added when Mr Rhodes shared the fate of the professional. Mr Steel's bowling was now of a most deadly character. Mr Riley had Bates and Pinder for companions, but neither of them was able to cope with the attacks of Mr Steel, who dismissed both of them in one over. A catch at slip ultimately disposed of Mr Riley. Hill was stumped and Bates clean bowled. Total 168.

I Zingari started batting, and at the close of the day three wickets were down for 66 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 September, page 10)

Play was resumed yesterday at Scarborough in the match between I Zingari and Yorkshire, when Messrs A G Steel and C T Studd ("not-outs" overnight) again took their places at the wickets. The latter had only increased his score by five runs when he returned the ball to Peate and was promptly dismissed. Mr G B Studd replaced his brother. Mr Steel proved more fortunate than the latter, and had amassed the respectable figure of 45 runs before he was given out "leg before" to Hill. The other batsmen caused little trouble and the innings closed for 127 runs.

Yorkshire again tried the bat, but this time with less success than on the previous day. Lockwood and Mr Wheater curiously enough attained the same figures, while Wood and Hill only secured double numbers besides. The county's second venture realized but 96 runs. The Wanderers thus had 118 runs to get to win the match, and at the close of the day had obtained 80 out of this number for the loss of three wickets, the "not outs" being the Hon Ivo Bligh, 44, and Mr G B Studd, 20.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 September, page 12)

The second match in the Scarborough Week – I Zingari v Yorkshire – was brought to an early conclusion on Saturday. When play ceased on the previous evening the Zingari had started a second venture with the task of getting 118 to secure victory, and of this number they had obtained 80 at the cost of four wickets. The Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr G B Studd took up their positions at the wicket at 12.25. Bates and Peate were the bowlers.

The score advanced slowly but surely. Mr Bligh gave Peate a rather difficult return chance, of which advantage was not taken. Eighteen having been added to the overnight total, Bates handed the ball to Ulyett, whose third delivery prostrated Mr Studd's leg stump; while in the same bowler's next over Captain Middleton was served in the same manner. Six for 100 runs. The Hon R Lyttelton arrived to the aid of the Hon Ivo Bligh. The attacking party were determined to vary their tactics as much as possible, and at 107 Peate made way for Hill. Mr Bligh now lifted a ball to Mr Wheater at long-field-on, but that fieldsman failed to hold it.

The score was quickly hit up to a tie, and then a smart catch at wicket got rid of Mr R Lyttelton. Colonel Kenyon-Slaney appeared, and the run necessary for victory was secured by a leg-bye, Mr Bligh carrying out his bat. The latter's hits included ten fours and eight threes. Five bowlers were tried . . . The complete score which follows will show that I Zingari won by three wickets.

2 September: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2419.html)

Day 1 - no report found

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

Yesterday's play in this match at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, presented a strong contrast to that of the opening day. Then 295 runs were scored for the loss of seven wickets; but yesterday 11 wickets realized only 169. The cricket was indeed slow, owing in a measure, probably, to the excessive heat of the weather. It took but a few minutes to dispose of the outstanding wickets of Nottinghamshire for the addition of 12 runs, thus bringing up the total to 307.

The visitors began their innings at ten minutes to 1. g Hearne, who went in first with Mr Russel, offered a strong opposition to all the bowling, and was batting nearly four hours for 44 of 132 runs obtained. At the fall of his, the eighth wicket, Mr Crawford came in, when the runs registered amounted to 90, and by some very good hitting secured 35 of 47 made subsequently. His dismissal at five minutes to 6 brought the day's proceedings to an end.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 September, page 12)

It was not expected that the conclusion of this match, commenced at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, on Thursday, would be of an interesting character, but no one was quite prepared for the poor show the M.C.C. made in their second innings. When stumps were drawn on the second evening the visitors had lost eight wickets for 137 runs, and for an addition of five those outstanding were taken on Saturday in less than half an hour.

A bad start was made in the inevitable "follow," three wickets being disposed of for 14 runs previous to the luncheon interval. Subsequently disasters were experienced rapidly, and by a quarter to 4 M.C.C. were all disposed of for 40 runs. Morley bowled with remarkable success, taking six wickets at the very moderate expense of 14 runs. From the score appended it will be seen that Nottinghamshire secured victory by an innings and 145 runs.

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA (report from Monday 6 September, page 12)

This match will commence to-day on Kennington-oval, at half-past 11 o'clock. The following are the teams: -

England. - Lord Harris (captain), Hon A Lyttelton, Dr W G Grace, Dr E M Grace, Messrs G F Grace, A G Steel, A P Lucas and F Penn, with Barnes, Morley and Shaw.

Australia. - Messrs W L Murdoch (captain), H F Boyle, F R Spofforth, A C Bannerman, J M Blackham, P S M'Donnell, T U Groube, G E Palmer, G [J] Bonnor, J Slight and F Moule.

The only alteration probable is in the colonial team. The Australians were at practice at the Oval on Saturday, and it was rumoured that Spofforth, whose finger was injured recently, would be unable to play. It is to be hoped that such will not prove true; but should it turn out to be so, his place will be taken by Mr Alexander, who has acted as secretary to the team. The umpires will be H H Stephenson and J R Thoms.

6 September: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA (Test Match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2421.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 September, page 8)

For some time past a wish has been expressed by many lovers of cricket that the second Australian team (which arrived in England at the commencement of this season) should meet a really representative eleven of our own cricketers. To any one who has not followed the history of the game as played between English and Australian exponents this wish would seem almost superfluous. In no other country and in no other of our colonies has cricket thrived as it has done in Australia. Although the wickets there are at times too dry for the game to be pursued under the most favourable circumstances, residents in the Antipodes have developed a wonderful faculty for learning it.

More than two years have passed since the first Australian visitors arrived in England and achieved some wonderful victories. At the beginning of the present season another Australian team reached our shores. They came, however, on distinctly different terms. A dispute, conducted on conditions which would not be allowed in England, had arisen in a match between an eleven from the mother country (under the captaincy of Lord Harris) and New South Wales. Over this we would, in company with most other lovers of the national pastime, draw a veil. Lord Harris, the chief sufferer in this unfortunate affair, with a chivalry that must command the respect of our colonial friends as well as that of our own cricketers, sunk all differences and consented to command an English team, which up to the present has more than realized expectation.

Our own eleven includes two players from Kent, three from Gloucestershire, three from Notts, and one each from Surrey, Lancashire and Middlesex. On the Australian side it is to be sincerely regretted that Mr Spofforth, whose finger was very much hurt at Scarborough, is unable to take part in this contest.

Long before the time appointed for commencing hostilities had arrived, streams of spectators could be seen wending their way to the Oval at Kennington, and by 10 o'clock there were about 10,000 persons present. Extra accommodation had been provided, and on the western side of the ground a stand had been erected with chairs to seat from 1,200 to 1,500 spectators. The utmost enthusiasm was shown, and there has probably never been so large and appreciative an audience present at any match in England before; at one time there were over 25,000 persons on the ground.

The crowd had arranged themselves in a very orderly manner before 11.30, and five minutes afterwards the Australians, who had lost the toss, entered the field. Drs E M and W G Grace appeared on behalf of England; Messrs Boyle and Palmer conducted the attack. The first hit of importance was to square leg for four by Dr E M Grace, after which his brother treated the bowling with considerable freedom. Twenty runs were obtained in as many minutes, and this rate of scoring was preserved for half an hour. It then received some acceleration through the determined efforts of Mr W G Grace, who, among other figures, obtained two threes by a cut and an off-drive.

Mr Boyle, who had bowled 13 overs for 22 runs, now gave up the ball to Mr Alexander. The score advanced at the rate of three an over until Palmer, who had delivered 16 for 32 runs, handed the ball to Bannerman. This did

not have the effect of checking the scoring, and 60 runs occupied less than an hour in their attainment. Dr E M Grace now gave a return chance to Bannerman, but this was not accepted; and to show his gratitude for this "life" he drove the two following balls to the off and on side for four each. Dr W G Grace, having aided these efforts with an off drive for three and a cut for four, his brother hit the ball hard but straight to mid-off, where it was carefully held. One for 91 runs.

The appearance of Mr Lucas was the signal for Mr Palmer to resume at 92; but this did not disconcert the batsmen, as five overs later the "hundred" was hoisted. It need hardly be said that this elicited enthusiastic cheers from the large company present. Mr Lucas now caused some anxiety to his enemies by scoring four off each bowler in successive overs, hitting a ball of Mr Palmer's to leg and driving another of Bannerman's as nearly straight as possible. This induced the Colonials again to alter their attack, and at 121 Mr Alexander superseded Mr Bannerman.

There was now a lull in the score-getting; but, not content with this, the bowling underwent another change at 136 (two hours having been expended in reaching this number). Mr Alexander then resigned in favour of Mr Boyle, the last ball of whose opening over Dr Grace cut splendidly for four. The next ten runs came at the rate of one an over, the 150 being registered at ten minutes to 2 o'clock. An on-drive by Dr Grace and a couple of singles were added to this, when Mr Boyle handed the ball to Mr M'Donnell. The two over of the latter received liberal treatment, as 11 were recorded from them, the two best hits being one to square leg for four by Mr Lucas, and another hit in the same direction for three by his companion. Luncheon was now announced, and the total stood at 167.

When play was resumed, Mr Palmer and Bannerman led the attack. Dr W G Grace sent the first ball he received to leg for four, and followed it up with a couple of singles. To this Mr Lucas replied with a straight drive for two, and, after a few singles, Dr Grace effected another leg hit, which he followed with two cuts, for which five were recorded. This free hitting was continued by Mr Lucas, who sent a ball of Mr Palmer's to leg for four. It was evident that this kind of thing would not do for the visitors, so at 203 their tactics underwent another alteration, Mr Boyle receiving the ball from Mr Palmer. The parting came from the other end, however, as at 211 Mr Lucas hit the ball on to his wicket. His chief items were five fours.

Barnes, whose good play during the season received a warm acknowledgement from the spectators, was the next to go in. he started with a rather lucky "snick" to leg for four. Three singles came from five overs, and then Dr Grace, having made off and on drives for four, gave the only chance up to this point by driving a ball to the long-field in front of the pavilion to Mr Alexander, who, however, let it drop. Profiting from this escape, Dr Grace sent the ball to the on for four, and three threes were placed to the credit of Barnes by cuts and an on-drive. At 269, Mr Alexander supplanted Bannerman, and his third ball Barnes, to the regret of those who admire his style of batting, played hard on to his wicket. Three for 269 runs.

Lord Harris now made his appearance, and Dr Grace, having added two fours by a drive and cut, had his off stump struck high up. His innings was composed principally of 12 fours, ten threes and 14 twos, and he was at the wickets four hours and a quarter. He retired amid the most deafening round of cheers that has probably ever greeted him. Four for 281 runs.

Mr F Penn joined the captain, but the batting was not characterized by any great freedom until Lord Harris made a couple of fours off Mr Alexander by

a leg hit and a straight drive. This caused Bannerman to resume at 304. Mr Boyle now relieved Mr Palmer, and in the next over from the opposite end Mr Penn was dismissed. Half the wickets were now down and as many as 322 runs were signalled. Mr Steel secured a straight drive for four, while Lord Harris was making three hits of similar value by a cut and two drives. Mr Palmer returned to the northern wicket at 355, and half-a-dozen runs later Mr Moule supplanted Bannerman. Mr Steel now made two cuts for four each, and at 389 Mr Palmer retired in favour of Mr Alexander.

Lord Harris, who had been batting extremely well, succumbed to a catch at slip, while Mr Steel fell to a catch at mid-on. A fine catch at slip disposed of Mr G F Grace, and so the day's play concluded. The game will be resumed at 11 o'clock to-day. Umpires, Thoms and H H Stephenson.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 September, page 7)

A company almost, if not quite, as large as that of the previous day assembled at Kennington Oval yesterday to witness the continuation of this match. It was greatly feared that the drizzling rain which fell on Monday evening would interfere with the progress of the game. Fortunately, however, the morning opening fine, the wicket was found to be but little affected, and those who had witnessed the English cricketers on the defensive came to see their deportment on the field. This was not the only inducement. There were many who thoroughly believed the Australians capable of making a strong resistance to even the best of England's bowlers, and this probably was their reason for paying a second visit to the Surrey County Ground.

Altogether the scene vied with that of the opening day in every respect. The stands, impromptu and otherwise, the terrace of seats and the pavilion were filled to repletion. It says much for a crowd of some 25,000 persons that so few police should have been found sufficient to maintain strict order. But so it was. Cricket and cricket only seemed to engage the attention of the majority of those present. Certain it is that not a single sharp piece of fielding or a well-placed hit was permitted to pass unnoticed, no matter by whom achieved, and it is needless to say there were many opportunities for these appreciative displays. Probably to the majority, the play was scarcely so attractive as on the preceding day, but there was much of an interesting character despite the one-sided position of the game.

M'Donnell, who appears to have borne a charmed life in the previous matches of this visit, proved himself capable of batting in extremely brilliant style. Mr Boyle and Bannerman both acquitted themselves creditably, while of Mr Murdoch it may safely be said that he has seldom shown superior cricket to his second innings, which is yet unfinished. A strong point in the Australians' play has always been their fielding, for which they have everywhere earned a well-deserved reputation; but it is doubtful whether they ever surpassed that of the English team yesterday, more especially during the latter portion of the day. With three wickets (each through good fielding) down for 14 of 271 runs required to save an innings' defeat, the Colonials' prospects looked gloomy in the extreme; but the careful batting of Mr Murdoch and the perfect hitting of Mr M'Donnell improved the position of the game considerably; so much so, indeed, that there is just a remote possibility that the Englishmen may have to go in a second time.

The Hon A Lyttelton (not out for 4) was accompanied to the wickets by Shaw at 11.5. Mr Moule and Mr Palmer continued the attack. After the amateur

had made a single and an on-drive for two, Shaw was bowled. Nine for 413 runs. Morley, the last man, ran and was out through a rather foolish piece of hesitation. Total, 420; time, 20 minutes past 11. Six bowlers were engaged . . .

With this heavy total against them the Australians were put on their defence at 20 minutes to 12 o'clock. Bannerman and Mr Murdoch faced the bowling of Morley and Mr A G Steel. The first ball sent to him the Australian professional hit to leg for four, and, amid hearty cheers, he did the same with the second ball. In fact, this batsman monopolized the whole of the scoring until 28 was reached, when he lost the society of his captain, caught at mid-off. Mr Groube joined Bannerman, who almost immediately afterwards was missed on the on-side close in by Morley.

Nothing but singles were made from the next seven overs, and then a hit was made by Bannerman which was really only of the same value, but an overthrow augmented it by three. He did not remain long afterwards, however, as at 40 Morley clean bowled his leg stump, the ball rising very quickly. Mr M'Donnell joined Mr Groube, who fell to a splendid ball of Mr Steel's when 19 had been added. This made a vacancy for Mr Slight, and at 62 Morley handed the ball to Shaw. The new batsman made a very fine hit off the change, lifting the ball to long-on over the heads of the spectators, and this was supported by Mr M'Donnell driving Mr Steel to the off for four. Shaw at 89 crossed, and Morley resumed at the pavilion end. In the latter's opening over a catch at third man dismissed Mr Slight, and the second ball sent to Mr Blackham he returned to Morley - high up and difficult though it was, the bowler secured it.

Messrs Bonnor and M'Donnell were now in possession of the wickets, but they did not stay there long, the latter being magnificently caught low down at mid-on. Six for 89 runs. Mr Boyle made his appearance, and Mr Bonnor, who had played with tolerable care, was at length induced to "let out" to a ball of Shaw's, and it was exceedingly well judged by Mr G F Grace at long-field-on. Seven for 97 runs. Mr Palmer came next on the list, and at 1.30 the 100 was reached. Mr Steel resumed at 112, and in Morley's following over Mr Palmer was bowled (leg stump). Eight wickets, 113 runs. Mr Alexander next assisted Mr Boyle, but when 13 had been added a very sharp catch close in at slip got rid of him. The adjournment was now made for luncheon.

When play was resumed Mr Moule went in with Mr Boyle. Morley and Mr Steel were again the bowlers. The last-named batsman made a couple of fours by an off drive and a lucky snick. At 142 Dr W G Grace tried his hand in place of Mr Steel, and with the fifth ball he captured the outstanding wicket, Mr Moule being caught at short leg at 3 o'clock. Total 149. Four bowlers had been put on and all of them were successful; Morley took five wickets . . .

The deficiency of 271 runs, of course, caused the Australians once more to occupy the wickets. This they did at first with a most lamentable want of success. Bannerman and Mr Boyle opposed the bowling of Shaw and Morley. Bannerman made eight, and fell to a fine running catch on the on-side. Mr Boyle five runs later was out through attempting a second run, and with the addition of a single only Mr Groube was well caught in the slips. Three for 14 runs was a very sorry outlook indeed for the colonists.

Messrs Murdoch and M'Donnell caused the state of affairs to look more cheerful, the latter making three drives, from each of which four resulted, while Mr Murdoch made a very clean late cut for a similar number. Barnes,

therefore, was tried in place of Morley at 51, and Dr W G Grace instead of Shaw a run afterwards. Both batsmen continued to play the bowling with considerable ease and freedom, Mr M'Donnell again effecting a couple of on-drives and a leg hit from all of which four were made. Mr Steel supplanted Barnes at 68, and in his second over Mr Murdoch made a forward cut for four and an off-drive for the same number. This liberal treatment of the bowling was well responded to by Mr M'Donnell, who hit successive balls to the on for four. He was then, however, dismissed - leg before wicket. In his 43 runs were no fewer than nine fours. Four for 97 runs.

Mr Slight remained while four were added, and then a grand catch by Lord Harris at long-off sent him back. Half the wickets were now lost. Mr Blackham joined his captain, but played very indifferent cricket for some time. He managed, however, to keep in, and with Mr Murdoch brought on many changes in the attack. At 102 Morley relieved Mr Steel, and Shaw did the same for Dr W G Grace at 124. The latter alteration did not at all answer. Mr Murdoch cut the first ball for four, while Mr Blackham made a square-leg hit and cut for the same number. Consequently Mr Lucas was tried at 143.

A separation was brought about at the other end, Mr Blackham falling a prey to a somewhat easy catch at point. Mr Bonnor came in and both batsmen scored rapidly. Both of them made three cuts for four, and when stumps were drawn they remained unconquered.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 September, page 5)

No match has ever excited such general interest as that which commenced at Kennington Oval on Monday between the Australians and England. Enormous crowds were present on the first and second days, and even yesterday the spectators were to be numbered by thousands. The fact of the match being played at all is a matter of general congratulation. After protracted negotiations, a team of English cricketers, under the captaincy of Lord Harris, entered the lists against the Colonials.

The latter had experienced an almost triumphant career. Twice only have they had to bow to their opponents, although it must be admitted that in some of their contests they may be said to have had a charmed life, especially in that against Gloucestershire. Unhappily, some questionable bowling at Scarborough disabled Mr Spofforth, and although it was hoped that he would have sufficiently recovered in time to participate in the match against England, this was found impossible. This, of course, was a most serious loss to the Colonials, as the gentleman in question is thought by many persons to be the best bowler in existence.

In spite of this drawback, the Australians were bold enough to meet eleven of our own players, who formed probably the strongest combination that has ever entered a cricket-field. All the elements of the game were represented to perfection. There were Drs W G Grace and E M Grace, both well known for their hard hitting and good fielding; Mr A G Steel, whose ability with the bat and ball has long been recognized; the Hon A Lyttelton, with a deserved reputation for wicket-keeping and batting; while Lord Harris, Mr Penn, Mr G F Grace and Mr Lucas are all players of marked ability. To this formidable host were added three of our best professionals. These were Barnes, known for his heavy scoring, and Shaw and Morley, the exponents of the two style of bowling which are generally most effectual.

A good piece of fortune attended England at the outset as they won the toss. A most perfect wicket was in favour of heavy scoring, and all the arts of which the Australians were masters were futile against the clever batting of many of the home team. Dr W G Grace played an innings which will long be remembered. With the exception of a very hard chance in the long field when he had made considerably over 100, his batting quite equalled any previous performance. His brother, Dr E M Grace, played carefully and well. Mr Lucas, Lord Harris and Mr Steel batted brilliantly, and it was not until 420 were reached that the eleven were out.

This was a most formidable number for the Australians to go in against. They played the game, however, pluckily and well. Misfortunes fell fast upon them in their opening venture. Their mainstay - Mr Murdoch, the captain of the team - succumbed to a catch at mid-off which only a very clever fieldsman could have made. Bannerman batted in a clean style, and Mr Boyle hit in grand form until he was obliged to retire for want of a companion. The visitors found themselves in a minority of 271; but although this was most disheartening, they played the game in their "follow on" with an ability and courage that called forth the most hearty acknowledgements of the spectators.

Mr Murdoch batted in a manner simply perfect, and, oddly enough, he beat Dr W G Grace in the race for "top score" by a run and then remained unconquered. The second innings of Australia for 327 runs surprised every one, as a single-innings defeat seemed inevitable. Surprises are so general in cricket that many people were afraid that this characteristic of the game would be most unpleasantly exemplified. Three batsmen, whose efforts had produced 119 runs in the first venture, were dismissed for seven. Mr Palmer kept dead on the wicket and captured two excellent batsmen, the Hon A Lyttelton and Mr G F Grace. Mr Penn remained, and the Gloucestershire captain had the pleasure of making the winning hit.

Taken all round, the Australians were, without the slightest exaggeration, beaten at every point; but still they possess such merit as must command the admiration of all who witnessed their play. A tribute to their ability was made by Lord Harris in front of the pavilion after the match, and his wish that they would have a safe voyage home was heartily re-echoed by the spectators.

At 11.20 Messrs Murdoch and Bonnor, the over night not-outs, re-occupied the wickets, the former having made 79 in irreproachable style, and his companion 13. Morley and Mr Steel continued the attack, and while the former escaped with very light punishment in his first two overs, Mr Murdoch cut and drove Mr Steel for four each. The present year's Cambridge captain, however, had the satisfaction of completely defeating Mr Bonnor. Thus seven wickets were down for 181 runs, and there seemed at this stage but little chance of an innings defeat being averted. Mr Palmer filled the vacancy, and commenced in promising style by driving a full pitch from Mr Steel to the off side of the wicket for four. He was, however, destined to fall a victim to the Lancashire amateur, who, running from his position as bowler to mid-off, secured the ball which had been hit very high.

With 84 runs still to make up, Mr [Alexander] joined Mr Murdoch, and a most remarkable change was gradually worked. Both batted with exceeding steadiness. Mr Alexander drove Mr Steel to the long-on for four, but with this exception the runs were obtained by small items for some time. By ten minutes to 12 the completion of the second hundred was an accomplished fact. After this announcement had been made, Morley's bowling was remarkably difficult, as for five overs neither batsman could do anything

against him. Mr Steel's deliveries appeared exactly to the liking of Mr Alexander, who in one over obtained two fours – a cut and off drive. This caused Mr Steel's removal in favour of Dr W G Grace at 217, which certainly checked the run-getting. A very fine leg hit for four from Morley had presently to be placed to the credit of Mr Alexander, and a snick off Dr Grace's bowling produced a similar number for the same batsman. This latter item increased the score to 230 by 25 minutes past 12, and immediately afterwards Mr Murdoch, by a single, reached three figures.

Mr Alexander gained runs at a much faster rate than his companion. He cut Dr Grace for three and played Morley hard to the leg boundary. The latter effort proved his last, as from the following ball he was neatly taken at slip. The retiring batsman's share of the runs secured during his stay amounted to more than two-thirds. Nine down for 239 runs.

The interest was now extremely great, and every one concerned worked with determined, Morley bowling at his best and all the home team showing remarkable quickness in the field. The batsmen exhibited just as much anxiety to let no opportunity slip, and so matters progressed, the excitement growing with every addition, small or large, to the figures. A straight drive for four from Mr Murdoch from Dr W G Grace evoked much applause, and the next over from the Gloucestershire captain realizing five runs, brought forth more cheering on the part of those present. At 2.50 Dr W G Grace handed the ball back to Mr Steel, whose first delivery was despatched by Mr Moule to leg for four. A cut for three and an off drive for two, both by Mr Murdoch, took the total to 263, when Shaw was tried in place of Morley. The slow bowler opened with three maidens, but in the meantime seven runs were obtained from Mr Steel, four of them being for an off drive by Mr Moule. Another run only was required to insure the Australians from what at the end of the second day's play seemed more than probable, and this at ten minutes past 1 was gained by Mr Murdoch.

Seemingly elated by their success, a more free style of play was adopted by both batsmen. The Australian captain drove Shaw to the off for four, and Mr Moule obtained seven runs in a subsequent over of the same bowler. Morley, at 284, resumed in place of Mr Steel, and the ten overs following the change yielded but five runs. a couple of rather fluky hits for four in one over from Morley preceded his displacement by Dr W G Grace, off whom a cut for four by Mr Murdoch advanced the total to 300 by 1.35. Mr Lucas now assisted Dr W Grace in the attack, and for three overs not a run was scored off his bowling. Such a measure of success was not afforded Dr W Grace, for in the same number of overs 10 runs came, including a straight drive for four by Mr Murdoch, who was playing as faultlessly as ever. Mr F Penn deposed Dr W Grace at 314, and seven runs in one over caused the Surrey amateur to be supplanted by Barnes. The change was resorted to at 324, and no advance was effected previous to the luncheon interval at 2 o'clock.

Upon a continuance at 10 minutes to 3, Messrs Moule and Murdoch had to meet the bowling of Mr Steel and Barnes. The end of the venture soon arrived, Barnes at 5 minutes to 3 bowling Mr Moule's off stump out of the ground. In this manner the innings closed for 327 runs. Mr Murdoch, who came in when one wicket was down, made 153 (not out) of 319 runs scored while he was batting. His display was perfectly free from fault, and included a five, 18 fours, three threes and 13 twos. Seven bowlers were engaged. Of these, Morley achieved the greatest share of success, but each of his three wickets cost 30 runs.

Wanting 57 runs to win, England sent in Mr G F Grace and the Hon A Lyttelton, opposed to whom were Messrs Boyle and Palmer. The sixth ball disposed of Mr Grace, whose place was taken by Mr Lucas. The Hon A Lyttelton cut Mr Palmer for four, but, with ten runs only registered, a fine catch at the wicket got rid of Mr Lucas, the ball being well taken on the leg side. The association of Mr Penn and the Hon A Lyttelton promised to amend matters, but at 22, after some not over-confident batting, the last named was clean bowled by Mr Palmer. Barnes succeeded, and cut Mr Palmer finely for four, but he was not destined to stay long. With 31 as the sum total, he played the ball to mid-on, where it was secured. Dr E M Grace joined Mr Penn, but, like his brother, Mr G F Grace, was dismissed by the second ball he received. Half the wickets were now down for 26.

Dr W G Grace went to the assistance of Mr Penn, and steadily the runs required were obtained, the winning hit being made by the last-comer at about a quarter-past 4. Thus, amid the greatest excitement, a victory was declared for England by five wickets.

13 September: SUSSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2423.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 September, page 4)

The Australians cricketers are certainly being harassed as far as the frequently and length of their journeys are concerned. After the match which attracted so much attention at the commencement of the past week at the Oval, they travelled to Glasgow and competed against 18 of Clydesdale. No sooner had stumps been drawn at the expiration of the allotted time for this encounter than they had to return to the south of England to keep their engagement against Sussex at Brighton, which, through the courtesy of the county committee, had been postponed a week to admit of the contest with England.

The Colonial eleven yesterday was, with one exception, the same as that which appeared at Kennington, Mr Slight being so seriously indisposed that Mr Jarvis had to play in his stead. Mr Spofforth is still unable to use his hand. Neither did the home team possess their full strength. The Australians generally produce a surprise, and no surprise has, perhaps, been much greater than that of yesterday, when Sussex, having obtained as many as 95 runs at the cost of only three wickets, allowed the remaining seven to be captured for the scanty addition of a hundred runs.

The visitors were successful in the toss and put their rivals on their defence – a piece of judgment, as the sequel proved (so far as the early batsmen, at least, were concerned) open to some question. Messrs Ellis and Mr P Lucas faced the attacks of Messrs Boyle and Palmer. Mr Lucas soon made a couple of leg hits from which six resulted. These were followed by a similar hit off Mr Palmer by Mr Ellis for two. After a couple of drives for three each from the other bowler, Mr Lucas had his leg stump taken by Mr Palmer. One for 16 runs. J Phillips now occupied the wicket with his captain, who shortly afterwards made a boundary hit for four off Mr Boyle, and Bannerman took the ball from the latter at 28. The last comer treated Mr Palmer's bowling with some liberality until a shower suspended operations.

On the game being continued, the bowlers crossed over. This did not have the effect of disconcerting the batsmen, who played both cautiously and well. as Bannerman's bowling was treated with a considerable amount of confidence, he was deposed at 60 by Mr Alexander. A too venturesome spirit nearly brought about the downfall of Mr Ellis, but the ball was not taken in so clean a style as that which usually characterizes the Australian wicket-keeper. There was now a decided lull in the rate at which wickets were obtained, but, as no wicket seemed likely to fall, the attacking party varied their tactics by substituting Mr Moule for Mr Palmer. It was left to the other bowler, however, to bring about a separation, J Phillips cutting the ball into the hands of point. Two for 76 runs. Howard remained while eight were added to the score, and was then bowled. Mr Ellis's next companion was Mr Thornton, and their partnership lasted until luncheon was announced, the total having then reached 95.

The interval over, a most melancholy collapse was witnessed, as the seven outstanding wickets all fell rapidly. The innings closed for 107, Mr Ellis, who, with the exception of the chance above mentioned, played a capital innings, being not out for 50.

The Australians went in, but were early deprived of the service of Bannerman, who, unfortunately, had to retire, having hurt the same hand which he injured a few weeks ago. Messrs Jarvis and Murdoch both batted well. Mr M'Donnell, however, made the highest individual score for the Colonies, and the total had reached 107 runs (the identical number obtained by Sussex in their first innings) when his wicket fell. Humphreys dismissed the three following batsmen without their being able to add to the score . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 September, page 8)

In consequence of the heavy rain which fell yesterday at Brighton, play could not be resumed in the above match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 September, page 4)

It is peculiarly unfortunate for the Sussex cricketers that they should have suffered so much for their magnanimity in allowing the match between the England Eleven and Australia to be played on the dates fixed for their own encounter with the Colonials. Then the weather was warm and genial, but the first three days of the present week have been just the reverse. On Monday, when the match against Australia commenced on the Hove ground, the sky was dull and threatening; on Tuesday rain fell so incessantly that play was altogether impracticable, and yesterday there was a rawness about the atmosphere that did not offer much temptation for any except enthusiastic lovers of the game to stand about a cricket ground. This was doubly unlucky for the county, as, in addition to its having a most detrimental effect on the attendance, it prevented the completion of what, so far as it had proceeded, promised to be an excellent match.

At the conclusion of the first day's play Sussex had completed an innings for 107, and seven of their opponents' wickets were down for 119 runs. Messrs Moule and Palmer, the Australian not outs, took up their positions at 20 minutes past 11 yesterday morning. Five runs (three from a cut by Mr Palmer) were added to the total, and then Juniper found out the weak point in Mr Moule's defence. Eight for 124 runs. Great caution characterized the partnership of Messrs Palmer and Alexander, and by slow stages the total travelled to 132. Here Juniper relinquished the ball to W Humphreys. This, however, did not have a deterrent effect on the scoring, so Lillywhite, who had just previously been driven for four, gave way to Munnion. The latter tactic proved to be a move in the right direction, as Mr Palmer speedily lifted the ball into the hands of mid-off.

Bannerman, injured on Monday, could not continue his batting, and the innings closed at 12.5 for 154. The bowling of Humphreys threw that of his companions into the shade, as his five wickets were obtained at the moderate cost of eight runs each.

Sussex began a second innings at 20 minutes past 12, having a balance of 47 runs against them. Messrs Ellis and Lucas were their first representatives, while to Messrs Palmer and Alexander the attack was entrusted. For a few overs both batsmen performed with exceeding steadiness, but Mr Lucas did not long remain content with the rate of four runs in six overs. Off-drives for three and four were made by him from Mr Alexander, whom he also cut for four. He then treated Mr Palmer's bowling liberally, cutting him for four, and continued to play so well that the next 28 runs had all to be placed against his name.

In the meantime Mr Boyle had deposed Mr Alexander, but this did not stop the run-getting to any appreciable degree. Mr Lucas drove Mr Palmer to the no for four, and an equal number were obtained off the same bowler for a square-leg hit. The former continued to do nearly all the scoring, and when the total had reached 40 runs he claimed no fewer than 32 of them. With the figures advanced to 42, Mr Moule was tried in the place of Mr Palmer, but runs were still easily obtained, although it must be stated that the majority of them were made off the new bowler. An addition of 19 was effected steadily, and, as the defence seemed impregnable, Mr Palmer was again called upon, Mr Moule being removed in his favour. At 66 another change occurred, Mr Alexander supplanting Mr Boyle. Thus the bowling was the same as at the commencement of the innings. Lunch time arrived without any loss being experienced by Sussex, whose runs at this period amounted to 66. Of this number Mr Lucas claimed 50 and Mr Ellis 16.

After 55 minutes' interval, during which rain fell heavily for a time, play was continued. A more rapid rate of run-getting was now adopted. Twice Mr Lucas played Mr Alexander to square leg for four. These hits were followed by the substitution of Mr Boyle for the bowler just mentioned. Mr Ellis on-drove Mr Boyle for four, and, with Mr Lucas, continued to play the bowling with confidence. The total at length reached 91, and some interest was shown as to whether they would surpass the feat of the first two batsmen in the match last week at the Oval. Oddly enough, however, before a run could be added, Mr Lucas fell a victim to the wicket-keeper. The retiring batsman had made more than two-thirds of the runs now obtained, mainly by six fours, two threes and seven twos.

Soon after the appearance of J Phillips, the players had to beat a retreat owing to rain. They were not long absent, however, and on resuming Phillips did not long survive, as he was beaten by a ball of Mr Boyle's. Two for 100 runs. Howard joined Mr Ellis, and the pair played out time, the total being 158 for two wickets. Umpires - C Payne and E Willsher.

20 September: PLAYERS OF THE NORTH v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2424.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 September, page 7)

After their six-wicket victory over the Gentlemen of Scotland on Saturday, the Australians journeyed to Bradford, where they entered the lists yesterday against 11 Players of England. The attendance was large, although rain fell during the day. The Colonials were again deprived of the very useful services of Mr Spofforth, while Bannerman was also absent.

Owing to the rain which had fallen during the last few days the wicket on the Horton-park Avenue ground proved very dead. The Australians won the toss and elected to go in first, the wickets being defended by Messrs Jarvis and Alexander against the bowling of Shaw and Morley. Only singles were made before the visitors lost their first wicket; the score having reached five, Mr Alexander was given out leg-before-wicket. The Australian captain was the next to handle the bat, and, in partnership with Mr Jarvis, rapidly increased the total to 27, when Morley made room for Bates. This change, however, did not materially check the rate of run-getting, and at 37 the new bowler missed a return from Mr Murdoch. Seven more were added, when Emmett relieved Morley, and shortly afterwards Shaw gave way to Barnes. The Yorkshire bowler suffered severely at the hands of Jarvis, and the luncheon bell rang with the score at 56.

After the usual interval Morley again took the ball in conjunction with Barnes. The former's bowling met with some severe punishment in his first over, but when the ball again returned to his end Morley's next attack proved irresistible, Jarvis being clean bowled first ball. Mr M'Donnell then joined his captain and ought to have been caught at long-on by Shrewsbury, but another life was given him and two fours were soon placed to his credit. The new-comer, however, did not stay long, as at 75 he was caught at slip. Four more were put on by Mr Murdoch, and then his next partner, Mr Groube, was cleverly stumped by Pilling. The score then stood at 79, and two more batsmen (Messrs Bonnor and Blackham) were dismissed by Morley, while Mr Murdoch was caught at wicket without any alteration in the total.

Messrs Palmer and Boyle occupied the wickets, and some hard hitting by the latter, including two drives for four each, and a two, and a three and a four (leg hits), helped to increase the total to 100. Bates then relieved Barnes. This did not by any means tend to abate the energy exercised by Mr Boyle, and both bowlers were alike laid under contribution. Mr Palmer, however, was dismissed shortly after, and a change having been made in the bowling, Mr Boyle's wicket was taken by a ball from Barlow. Mr Moule remained not out with 10 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 September, page 4)

When stumps were drawn in the above match at Horton-park Ground, Bradford, on Monday, the Australians had made 183 runs for the loss of nine wickets, but as no other player for the Colonials put in an appearance yesterday, England started their first innings on the resumption of the game. The wicket, which had been left in a very bad state on the previous evening, was rendered still worse by the rain which fell during the night. However,

play was commenced a few minutes past 12 with Oscroft and Barlow batting, the bowlers being Messrs Boyle and Palmer.

The fielding of the Australians was, as usual, very fine, and soon had its effect. At 16, Barlow was well caught by Mr Murdoch at mid-off. Lockwood filled the vacancy, but Palmer took his wicket with the first ball. Barnes joined Oscroft, and matters brightened a little until ten runs were put on, when the latter was cleverly caught by Alexander at point. Selby then took the bat, but then lost his partner, clean bowled. Four for 32 runs. Shrewsbury was the next to appear at the wicket, and some smart hitting by both batsmen increased the score to 48. The figure was doomed to mark the downfall of the last comer, who sent the ball into the wicket-keeper's hands. Only two more were put on when slip secured the ball off Selby. Emmett shortly after followed in the footsteps of Selby. With Bates and Emmett at the wicket the score gradually increased to 72. Alexander then took Boyle's place, and shortly after luncheon was announced.

On play being resumed, 25 runs were wanted to save a "follow on" for England. Only one of these had been made when Bates was caught by Moule at cover-point. Eight wickets for 80 runs. The remaining batsmen only added 16, and the innings closed with 87 runs to make up. This state of affairs necessitated the "follow on," and Oscroft and Barlow again joined partnership. Both batted well, and when stumps were drawn for the day the home team had scored 88 for three wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 September, page 10)

Rain fell again at Bradford during Tuesday night, and when the players in the above match made their appearance on the Horton-park Ground yesterday the soil was found to be in such a state as to render cricket impracticable. There was an evident desire on the part of the Australians to get the match finished, as was shown by the frequent inspection of the soil. It was at length decided to clear away the stagnant water as much as possible, and to postpone the commencement of play till half-past 2.

Shortly after that time, the field having been taken by the Colonials, Bates and Barnes took their places at the wickets, Messrs M'Donnell and Boyle bowling. Barnes did not give his opponents much trouble, as in venturing too much he was run out in the second over. Five for 90. By some hard hitting Bates quickly increased the score to 100, which was put up at ten minutes to 3, the runs having been made at a faster rate than one per minute. The Yorkshire player went on scoring with great energy. Four after four were placed to his credit until 119 was reached. He then returned the ball to the bowler, which Mr Boyle promptly secured.

Shrewsbury went in, but soon lost Selby, who was caught at square leg. Emmett filled his place, and the rate of run-getting increased. At 144 Mr M'Donnell, whose bowling had been severely knocked about, handed the ball to Mr Alexander. Both batsmen added creditably to the score, and at the close of the day the match remained drawn . . .

23 September: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2425.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 September, page 9)

The Australians commenced a match yesterday on the Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham, against the county representatives. Notwithstanding the dull weather, a large number of spectators was present, and witnessed some good cricket. The wicket had been kept in extremely good condition. The Australians won the toss and sent in Messrs Jarvis and Alexander, while Shaw and Morley commenced the attack.

The bowling was admirable and runs were consequently difficult to obtain. Only two were made by Mr Jarvis (off drive) in the course of several overs, when he sent the ball into the hands of long-on. Mr Murdoch then joined Mr Alexander, and commenced by making a cut for four. This was followed by minor hits, and at 21 Morley made way for Flowers. The colonial captain again got the ball away for four, this time to square leg; 36 were reached by some patient cricket, and a further change was made in the attack. Barnes took the ball from Shaw. Shortly afterwards Mr Alexander gave an easy chance to the wicket-keeper of running him out, but was let off. The game had made little further progress when Mr Alexander was further favoured by his opponents, as he was missed by Shrewsbury at slip and Sherwin failed to stump him. These mistakes proved a considerable loss to the home team, and the score advanced steadily to 87 before the last-named batsman was finally disposed of, with no fewer than 40 runs to his credit, which included three fours, one three and five twos.

Mr M'Donnell joined his captain, but soon lost his partner, who was caught at short-leg without alteration in the score. Mr Groube was the next to appear at the wickets, and, assisted by Mr M'Donnell, increased the score rapidly to 100. The latter, however, was shortly after dismissed by a very easy catch in the long field. The score at this period was 103, and Mr Boyle came in. Only one was put on, and the last comer was bowled. Mr Blackham was Mr Groube's next partner, but neither stayed long. Mr Bonnor did some good work for his side, and the innings closed for 141 runs.

The County sent in Oscroft and Shrewsbury, to the bowling of Palmer and Boyle. The former did not give much trouble to his opponents . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 September, page 10)

This match, on the Trent-bridge ground, Nottingham, was resumed yesterday. As on Thursday, the weather was dull. Cricket enthusiasts were somewhat disappointed by the rapidity with which their county batsmen were dismissed. The prospect, however, brightened when the time for attack came. Shaw and Morley both did their best to retrieve the misfortunes of the day, with what degree of success will be seen below. The wicket was by no means impaired by Thursday's play, and some good all-round cricket was exhibited.

When stumps were drawn on the previous evening, the Australians had scored 141 runs for an innings and Notts had lost one wicket for 13. Barnes and Shrewsbury, the "not outs" of overnight, again appeared at the wickets, while Messrs Palmer and Boyle still directed the attack. Both hit hard, and the score was rapidly advanced. When the score had reached 54

Shrewsbury was taken at mid-off. A series of misfortunes followed. At 57 Barnes was bowled. Two only were added, and the new-comer — Flowers — was caught at slip, and Daft was bowled with the score unchanged. At 72 Selby was bowled, and one run later Scotton followed his example. Morley was dismissed at 79, and the innings closed with the downfall of Sherwin's wicket for 88 runs.

The Australians commenced their second venture just before the luncheon bell rang, and had scored six runs when the players retired. After the interval, when the score had reached 18, Mr Alexander was dismissed by a splendid catch in the long field. Mr Murdoch joined Mr Jarvis, but, after adding a unit to the score, his wicket was taken by Shaw. Mr M'Donnell, the next batsman, drove Morley to the off for four, and when 27 had been reached was dismissed by a splendid ball from Shaw. Mr Groube proved less successful than the last-named batsman, as, after Jarvis had added four (leg hit), he succumbed to a ball from the next bowler. Mr Jarvis was the next to go, being clean bowled by Morley. Five wickets for 31 runs.

Mr Bonnor batted well, but at 46 Shaw again distinguished himself by taking the former's leg stump. Messrs Moule and Blackham were then partners, but could not hold out long against the determined attack of the bowlers, the former being caught at wicket off Shaw and the latter bowled by Barnes, who had taken Morley's place. The innings closed for 77 runs.

The Nottingham team were again put on their defence with 131 runs to obtain for a victory. Morley and Sherwin went in, and two were scored when play ceased for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 September, page 11)

From the first two days' play in the above match, a close finish was anticipated, and those who visited the Trent-bridge Ground under this impression on the third day were not disappointed. The county had a task set them of getting 131 runs and an innings in which to secure them. Two of these were obtained on Friday evening without mishap.

On Saturday the Australians made a most gallant fight of it, and played the game keenly from the time wickets were pitched until the last ball was delivered. Eight of the Notts batsmen only obtained 15 runs between them, and when the last man appeared the result was exceedingly doubtful. Although two instances of bad fielding occurred (one, by the way, by a substitute), the Australians showed their usual skill in this department of the game, and their match at Nottingham will long be remembered as one of the closest possible.

Sherwin and Morley continued their batting at 12 o'clock, opposed by Messrs Boyle and Palmer. Four only were added to the overnight total when Morley fell to the Australian captain at mid-on, while three runs later his companion succumbed to a catch by the same fieldsman on the other side of the wicket. Shrewsbury and Barnes now entered into partnership. The former quickly gave a chance to Thompson, who was substituting at point, and shortly afterwards he had another escape at the hands of Mr Bonnor at long-field-on. These indulgences, as the sequel proved, cost the Australians the match. Shrewsbury commenced to hit with considerable freedom, and his efforts being well seconded by Barnes the total rapidly advanced to 40, when Mr Palmer handed the ball to Mr Alexander, and when five more were obtained luncheon was announced.

After the interval Mr Palmer resumed bowling, and Shrewsbury soon sent a ball of his to leg for four. Barnes still played steadily and well, so at 64 the bowlers crossed over. A cut for three to each batsman formed the chief items in the next ten runs, when Mr Palmer went off in favour of Mr Moule. Another leg hit for four by Shrewsbury and contributions of minor value by his companion took the score to 85, when Mr Palmer resumed instead of Mr Boyle, and a further four (leg hit) by Shrewsbury brought the 90 on the telegraph board. Barnes augmented this by a splendid drive to the pavilion for four. This proved his last hit, however, as the following ball clean bowled him. Three wickets, 97 runs.

Oscroft joined Shrewsbury, and for a few overs it seemed as though this pair would obtain the 34 now required for victory. At 102 Mr Moule relieved Mr Boyle, and this change soon had the effect of dismissing Oscroft. Twenty-two runs were now required to win, a task which should not have been at all difficult for six Nottingham batsmen. A series of misfortunes, however, now befell the home team. Selby fell a victim to a fine right-handed catch at point by Mr Alexander, and with the addition of a single Scotton was taken in the slips. Shrewsbury continued to monopolize the hitting, and received but slender aid from his three next companions, as two runs only were the result of the joint efforts of Daft, Flowers and Gunn.

Two runs were still wanting when Shaw went to the assistance of Shrewsbury. The game was now watched with the greatest interest, and amidst the most enthusiastic cheering the winning hit was made by Shaw at 4 o'clock. The full score appended will show that Nottinghamshire were victors by one wicket.

27 September: PLAYERS v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2426.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 September, page 11)

Soon after the termination of the match against the combined talent of England at Kennington Oval it was announced that the Players would try conclusions with the Australians at the Crystal Palace. Although the season was far advanced, it was hoped that the summer weather which had come late to us this year would be prolonged until the match had been played. A week or ten days ago it looked as though these hopes were doomed to disappointment, but, fortunately, the boisterous elements abated and yesterday the day appointed for the commencement of hostilities was as fine as could reasonably be expected.

Special arrangements had been made at the Palace for the accommodation of visitors. The ground lies in a hollow, beautifully fringed with trees, over which, looking from the southern side, the Palace itself can be seen; and when the sun shines brightly on its glassy roof, a very pleasant background to the scene is formed. There were many stands erected yesterday, but they were not too numerous to prevent those unfurnished with seats having a very fair view of the game. A number of flags were hung about the pavilion and tents, and one (that of the Crystal Palace Club) hung half-mast high, recalled to the minds of many among the 10,000 present the sad event of the past week – the death of Mr G F Grace, who had played against the present team of Australians more than any other English cricketer. It was doubly sad, too, that his funeral should have been fixed for the day on which his opponents commenced their last match in England.

The activity of the contestants and the keen interest of the spectators soon, however, dispelled these gloomy reflections. Some disappointment was naturally felt that Mr Spofforth's hand was not well enough to allow of his participating in the match. This, of course, increased the Players' chance of victory: but serious misgivings were experienced by many persons when the English team was examined. The bowling is well represented, as there are no fewer than six who may be considered in the front rank; neither should any anxiety exist as to the fielding; but where is the batting? There are only five in the eleven who would be "played" for their skill in this department alone. This disregard for the batting may probably cost the English players the match, for, however good the bowling may be, it must be borne in mind that eleven batsmen are required to get runs against such masters of the art of bowling and fielding as the Australians.

Five of the English representatives hail from Nottinghamshire, three from Yorkshire, two from Lancashire and one each from Derbyshire and Surrey. England were successful in the toss and went in. None of the batsmen expected to get runs showed any approach to form – not even Barnes. Shaw, who could scarcely have been reckoned on for many, played with more confidence than any of his compeers, and was out in a way which rarely occurs. Morley drove the ball straight, Mr Palmer just managed to touch it, and Shaw, who was following up too quickly, was run out. Mistakes were made on both sides, and the two batsmen, Mr Murdoch and Barnes, who have obtained the highest score up to the present time, were both missed early in their innings. The wicket played rather dead at the beginning of the match, but improved as the day wore on.

A cheer from the spectators greeted the Australians as they entered the field at noon. Emmett deputed Barlow and Barnes to act on the defensive. Messrs Boyle and Palmer had charge of the early bowling. To the former's deliveries the field were disposed in the following manner: - Mr Jarvis, wicket-keeper; Mr Alexander, point; Mr Groube, cover-point; Mr Murdoch, slip; Mr Moule, short-leg; Mr M'Donnell, short mid-off; Mr Blackham, short mid-on; Mr Palmer, mid-wicket; Mr Bonnor, long-field-on; and Bannerman, long-field-off.

To field Mr Palmer's bowling the men were placed thus: - Mr Jarvis, wicket-keeper; Mr Alexander, point; Mr Blackham, cover-point; Mr Murdoch, slip; Mr Boyle, short-leg; Mr Murdoch, mid-on; Mr M'Donnell, long-field-on; Mr Groube, deep square-leg; Bannerman, leg; and Mr Moule, long-field-off. [Note: one of the two Murdochs must be Bonnor.] Of course, these positions were varied to suit the style of the batsmen.

The second ball sent to him at a few minutes past 12 o'clock, Barlow drove to the on for a couple. A maiden followed, and in the third over each batsman was credited with a single. Seven were then made by a couple of off drives by Barnes in one over of Mr Palmer's. Three singles were the result of eight overs. A straight drive to the pavilion by Barnes followed, and at the end of the first half-hour's play it was found that 20 runs had been obtained. Five were added to this number when Barlow had his leg stump upset, he having been at the wickets nearly 40 minutes for six runs.

Lockwood came, and Barnes gave a somewhat difficult chance to Mr Murdoch at forward mid-on, but escaped. The last comer seemed exceedingly ill at ease, and a cut for two off Mr Boyle was the only ball he played in anything like his usual style. This want of "form" brought about his downfall before he could get set, as at 32 he was capitally caught at mid-off. Two wickets, 32 runs. Bates did not show any more confidence than his predecessor, and when ten runs had been made in a dozen overs he skied the ball to cover-point, where it was easily held. Three wickets down.

Jupp's appearance was hailed with some satisfaction, as it was thought highly probable that he would be able by his patient play to stem the tide of ill-success that seemed to have set in against England. These hopes were soon dashed to the ground, however, by the Surrey professional returning the ball. Four for 45 runs. Emmett appeared, and Barnes made an off-drive for three and a single, to which the Yorkshireman replied with a unit. This brought the 50 on the board, the last 30 having occupied two minutes each. Some risky runs were now made; but no mishap occurred from this cause. A double misfortune, however, befell the Players at 65, as Barnes hit the stumps with his leg and Emmett played the ball hard on to his wicket. Six batsmen were thus dismissed for an average of less than 11 runs apiece. Shaw joined Selby, and when a couple of maidens had been sent down luncheon intervened.

After the lapse of 50 minutes the game was continued. Shaw elicited great enthusiasm by obtaining four in each bowler's first over, driving Mr Boyle and cutting Mr Palmer, the ball going to the boundary in both cases. He now lost the society of Selby, however, who succumbed to an easy piece of left-hand stumping. Seven for 75 runs. Shaw celebrated the arrival of Pilling by driving a ball of Mr Palmer's finely to the off for a quartette, but the Lancashire wicket-keeper did not assist him to any great extent - bowled off-stump. Eight for 82 runs.

Morley now became associated with Shaw. A cut for two by the latter and singles carried the score to 90, and then Morley drove the ball straight back and it went through Shaw's wickets, who was given out. This decision called forth rather strong expressions of dissatisfaction, but the ball was touched by Mr Palmer with his hand and Shaw was off his ground when it touched the stumps. Mycroft arrived, but the next ball Morley received clean bowled him, and the innings closed - total, 90. Time, 3.15. Mr Boyle and Mr Palmer bowled throughout . . .

The Australians sent in Messrs Alexander and Jarvis at 20 minutes to 4 o'clock. The English players were distributed as follows: - Shaw, bowler; Pilling, wicket; Barlow, point; Selby, cover-point; Mycroft, slip; Morley, short-leg; Lockwood, mid-on; Jupp, mid-off; Bates, extra mid-off; Emmett, long-field-on; and Barnes, long-field-off.

To field Morley's bowling they stood thus: - Pilling, wicket-keeper; Lockwood, point; Emmett, cover-point; Shaw, short slip; Barnes, long-slip; Selby, short-leg; Mycroft, mid-on; Jupp, mid-off; Bates, extra mid-off; and Barlow, long-field-on.

Three singles were made in the opening over. Mr Alexander hit the first ball he received from Morley well to leg for a quartette. A single only was the product of the four succeeding overs. Mr Alexander then hit the ball hard to long-on, and Emmett, although he had to run and intercept it, made a magnificent catch and dismissed him. One for eight runs. Mr Murdoch proceeded to the wicket amid a round of applause, which was renewed when Mr Jarvis drove a ball of Shaw's well to the off for four. Now came another check, as five overs were sent down for a single, Mr Murdoch in the last of them giving a chance to slip. Profiting by this, the Australian captain made seven by a couple of square leg hits from Morley, which caused that bowler to retire in favour of Mycroft. One or two instances of wild fielding now occurred, but the Players soon recovered themselves. Bates relieved Shaw, but it was left to the Derbyshire bowler to effect a parting, which he did by tempting Mr Jarvis to return him the ball. Two for 32 runs.

Mr [M'Donnell] then joined Mr Murdoch, who drove a ball of Bates's to the off for four, and in the same over the last arrival raised the ball to long-field-on, where Emmett might have secured it, but the spectators were in the way and he could not get back far enough. Mr Murdoch having added four by a cut and half that number by a square leg hit, was dismissed by a splendid catch at extra mid-off. Three for 51 runs. Mr Blackham came in, and seven were obtained in one over of Mycroft's, to which were soon added four from a straight drive by Mr Blackham off the same bowler. Morley, therefore, resumed and Mycroft crossed over. Mr M'Donnell hit a ball to the on for four, and when a bye was obtained the stumps were drawn. Umpires, R Thoms and E Willsher. Play will be continued at noon to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 September, page 8)

Mist and sunshine struggled hard for supremacy yesterday at Sydenham, and in the end mist may fairly be said to have had the better of the conflict. The early morning in the metropolis was enveloped in vapour, but, fortunately, not so dense or so disagreeable as those tallow substantial fogs which are associated with the month of November. Although the sun shone out when the time arrived for the continuation of the match between the Australians and the Players of England, the wicket played exceedingly slow.

The visitors continued their batting, and at the outset it seemed as though they would so outstrip their rivals at the end of an innings that the latter's chance of success would be a forlorn hope indeed. Twenty-six runs only were added to the overnight total, however, when good bowling and smart fielding caused a terrible collapse, as no fewer than four good batsmen were all dismissed at the same total. Some surprise was now caused by the appearance of Mr Spofforth in the place of Bannerman, who was down on the list and played on the previous day. The usual amount of discussion as to the correctness of this procedure took place among the spectators; but, as Bannerman had not batted, he could only be regarded as a substitute on the preceding day. The celebrated bowler played a lucky innings for the third highest score of his side.

The Australians were all got rid of for 138 at 1.35. A delay of over 20 minutes occurred, and then the English batsmen – Barnes and Shaw – made their appearance with the Australian fieldsmen. While the captain of the visitors was deciding where to place his team, however, the bell for luncheon was rung, so that the players had to return to the pavilion without a ball having been bowled – an occurrence which called forth jeers from those of the spectators who had an appreciation of the ridiculous. On such short days as the light permits at present, and when the actual time of play is under four hours, a much stricter regard should be paid to Law 38, which allows "ten minutes between each innings."

After the repast the light became very bad, and at one time it was not possible to catch even a glimpse of the towers of the Palace, which on the previous day had formed so bright an ornament to the scene. It was also very difficult to catch anything more than an outline of the spectators on the opposite side of the ground. The colonials outdid themselves both in bowling and fielding, and the hearts of the many ardent admirers of professional cricket sank within them as they saw one after another of the English players come in only to retire crestfallen before they had done much for the "general good." Great consternation was especially felt when Barnes, the chief scorer on the previous day, went for nothing; but this feeling was not abated on the downfall of the sixth wicket before the players had rubbed out the debt incurred on the first innings.

Jupp carried off the palm of top scorer, and would have done better had his partner not been so timorous as to cause him to be run out. Morley disputed the honour of second best scorer with Bates, and at the close of the venture the Australians were set a task of 40 runs for victory. The visitors showed, however, that they were quite as unable to play in a hazy light as their rivals, as in the few minutes left three of their batsmen were dispatched for ten runs.

Two minutes after the appointed time, the two not-outs – Mr M'Donnell 16 and Mr Blackham 9 – took up their stations at the wicket. Mycroft and Barnes conducted the attack. A single came from the opening over, and three from the second. Each batsman then made a quartette – Mr M'Donnell, by a cut from Mycroft, while Mr Blackham drove a ball of Barnes's to the on. The last-named batsman soon followed with four from a leg hit. Mr M'Donnell also secured a very nice off-drive for three. Twenty-two runs were obtained in the first 20 minutes. Four from a square-leg hit by Mr Blackham were then made, when a series of disasters overtook the colonials.

Mr M'Donnell drove the ball to long-field-off, where Bates showed excellent judgment and secured it. Mr Bonnor arrived, successfully resisted two balls and then played hard on to his wicket. Mr Groube joined Mr Blackham.

A couple of overs were sent down without advantage to either side. The next two balls, however, proved destructive to a couple of the Australian batsmen – Mr Blackham well caught at mid-off and Mr Groube at slip. Messrs Spofforth and Boyle were now companions, and at ten minutes to 1 o'clock the three figures were hoisted. The applause which hailed this announcement had hardly subsided, however, before Mr Boyle played the ball easily into the hands of cover-point.

Save four byes, nothing was obtained in seven overs. Mr Spofforth added a single, but then lost the society of Mr Moule, who fell to a catch at slip. Nine for 105 runs. The appearance of Mr Palmer was the signal for more successful play. Mr Spofforth made a leg-hit for four, and the total was further augmented by a "snick" for four by the same batsman. Three twos were then made by Mr Spofforth – a couple of on-drives and a late cut. Mr Palmer drove the ball to the off for the same value. The total having advanced to 127, a two-fold change was resorted to – Barlow relieved Barnes and Shaw did the same for Mycroft. The first ball sent down by the Lancashire bowler Mr Palmer drove to the on for four; but when Mr Spofforth had added three he fell to a fine catch high up at long-field-on by Barnes. The innings, which had lasted two hours and 35 minutes, closed for a total of 133. Six bowlers were engaged. Mycroft claimed five wickets . . .

The Australians entered the field before luncheon, accompanied by Shaw and Barnes; but before a ball had been delivered the bell for the interval rang. After another pause of three-quarters of an hour the same batsmen reappeared and started to rub out the 43 deficit. Messrs Boyle and Palmer were the bowlers. The first item was an on-drive for four; but in the next over Barnes retired, clean-bowled. One wicket down. Lockwood came, and, although the light was so bad, all promised well for half-a-dozen overs. Shaw cut a ball of Mr Boyle's for a couple, while his companion made an off-drive, a cut and a leg hit for seven. These contributions, aided by singles, brought the total up to 16, when Shaw played the ball back to the bowler. Two wickets down.

Bates, who filled the vacancy, led off well with a cut for four, to which he added a single before Lockwood retired – bowled leg stump. Three for 24 runs. Barlow assisted Bates, who, four runs later, gave a rather difficult chance to Mr Palmer at deep mid-on from Mr Boyle's bowling. The home team did not long profit by this, however, as at 33 a sharp piece of stumping got rid of Barlow. Emmett's stay was both short and unfruitful – clean bowled. Half the wickets were now captured for 33 runs. Jupp arrived to the aid of Bates. The latter made another two by a cut, but was then clean-bowled. Six for 40 runs. Selby, who succeeded, had Barlow to run for him, having hurt his foot. He led up with a leg hit for three, and followed this with another for four. The five following overs were unproductive, and then Selby was clean-bowled – a fate which his successor, Pilling, suffered after he had made a single. Eight for 47 runs.

Morley and Jupp were now in partnership, and the former was fortunate in making 13 (four from a "snick") before he fell to a fairly good catch at mid-off. Nine for 70 runs. Mycroft, the last on the list, started with a single. Three maidens ensued, and Jupp drove the ball well to the off for three. Mycroft then made four in an over of Mr Boyle's – a cut for two and a lucky hit for the same number. The Surrey batsman gained another four in three hits, and then drove the ball to the off. There was an easy chance of a run, but Mycroft did not start and Jupp could not get back again before his wicket was upset. Total, 82. Duration of innings, one hour and three-quarters. Two bowlers only were engaged . . .

Within 11 minutes of the time appointed for drawing stumps, the Australians sent in Messrs Alexander and Jarvis. Mycroft took the first over; his second ball Mr Alexander cut rather high up, and Selby cleverly secured it with his left hand. One for nothing. Mr Bonnor drove the second ball he received for a couple. Barnes was the other bowler. A cut for three and a single were made by Mr Jarvis, and to this number four byes were added. A double calamity now happened to the defenders, as, without any addition, Mr Bonnor was clean bowled and Mr Jarvis played the ball back to the bowler.

Stumps were now drawn. A return match will be started immediately after the completion of that under notice to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 September, page 6)

Surprising as cricket usually is, this match has given evidence that if the game were played later in the year than customary it would become more surprising still. In this match wickets that have been accounted valuable have gone for comparatively valueless amounts, and the entire contest, from whatever point of view it may be regarded, does not afford a correct index of the true merits of either eleven.

The light has been fitful and the ground treacherous. In both these respects, however, all judges of cricket who have been present must be agreed that the Australians had good fortune on their side. They had the best of the light and the best of the wicket, though it must be remembered that a questionable piece of judgment on the part of the English captain in going in first gave them these advantages.

Yesterday when the Australians continued their batting on the picturesque little ground at Sydenham they required but 30 runs for victory and had seven wickets with which to obtain them. Some 4,000 spectators were present to witness what proved to be anything but a foregone conclusion. Messrs Murdoch and Moule faced the bowling of Barnes and Mycroft. The first four overs produced nothing. Then Mr Murdoch sent a ball of Barnes's to square leg for a quartet. Both bowlers were well on the spot and the next four overs were also maidens. A single and an off-drive for two followed, and then came a check to the Colonials, Mr Murdoch playing easily into the hands of point. Four wickets, 17 runs.

The more sanguine of the spectators hoped that this meagre rate of scoring would continue. Mr M'Donnell arrived, and when he had contributed a single, Mr Moule cut a ball of Mycroft's for four. Only three more were added, however, before another mishap befell the Colonials, Barnes finding his way to Mr Moule's leg stump. Mr Blackham went in, and a couple of apparent chances of run-outs were let slip by rather loose fielding. Mr M'Donnell secured six in one over by a straight drive for four and an on-drive for two. Three overs later Mr Blackham, who had batted indifferently, hid the wicket with his legs, and before anything could be added Mr M'Donnell fell an easy prey to point off the bowling of Morley, who had just taken the place of Barnes. Six and seven for 34 runs.

Mr Spofforth stayed while Mr Groube secured a single, and was then well taken at wicket. Eight for 35 runs. Five were wanting for victory when Mr Boyle joined Mr Groube. Both batsmen showed a lack of confidence, but they managed to pull the game through, a cut by Mr Boyle winning the match by two wickets. Three English bowlers were tried. Mycroft captured five wickets . . .

With the close of the match against the Players of England, the tour of the second Australian team in England may be said to have come to an end, as they wait only until Tuesday morning next to commence their homeward journey. Their visit has extended over the greater portion of five months, and during this time they have played no fewer than 37 matches, exclusive of several impromptu contests, organized for the purpose of filling up time when occasion required. Their first engagement was at Southampton, on May 13 and 14, and the last occupied the opening three days of the present week – a remarkably late period of the year for cricket. Both of these they won, and of the rest victory, in the majority of instances, declared itself on the side of the Colonials.

From a cricket, as well as a financial, point of view, the visit has proved very successful, but for various reasons Mr Alexander's team has not commanded quite so great a run of public patronage as was accorded that of Mr Conway's. In a great measure this position of affairs can easily be accounted for. In the first place, owing to the visit having been decided upon after the English programmes had been drawn up, no first-class matches could early in the season be arranged. Indeed, at one time it seemed probable that the Australians would be permitted to return without having tested their ability against the cricketing strength of England. Then the dispute with Lord Harris's team in Australia did not tend to increase the popularity of the players so soon to leave our shores. As it is, however, all has ended well, and Mr Alexander's men have proved themselves, taken as a body, a first-class team. As in matches against odds, so in contests against county and other elevens, their performances have been eminently satisfactory, and though it is claimed that in many of their best matches a large share of good luck has attended their efforts, it cannot be said that they have neglected to play the game thoroughly.

Several of their members have on more than one occasion had an extra life or two, it is true. Owing to slovenly fielding on the part of their opponents, but those who field badly, quite as much as those who bat or bowl indifferently, deserve to be on the losing side. In fielding many of our elevens have been found wanting, while the Australians in a great measure owe their successes to their ability in this department. Wonderful skill was shown in this respect by the first lot of colonials, which it was hoped would have a wholesome effect on our own cricketers, but the lesson has not been taken so much to heart as could have been desired.

Only in one of the 37 matches have the Australians quite met their match in fielding. It need hardly be said that this was in the contest at Kennington Oval, played September 6 and two following days. Everyone concerned did his work in true cricketing style, and it is certain that no finer display has ever been witnessed. Although beaten, it was certainly the best performance of the colonists, and had Mr Spofforth's services been available they might possibly have carried away with them the glory of having defeated an eleven which included the cream of English bowling, batting and fielding.

In many a match nothing has seemed easier than scoring off the Australian bowling, but it must not be forgotten that they had not infrequently to play when fatigued by a long and tedious journey. It is to be regretted that the match with the Players of England so recently decided could not have been arranged earlier, as what with heavy dews, rendering the wicket dead and uncertain, and bad light, the result cannot be considered a criterion of the comparative merits of the rival teams.

A brief sketch of the work of the Australians may prove interesting. On May 13 and 14, after a week's practice at Mitcham, the opening match was played at Southampton, and, although the Eighteen of St Luke's Club included the late Mr G F Grace and Mr Gilbert, a victory by an innings and 21 runs was secured. This was mainly due to the bowling of Messrs Spofforth and Boyle, who took respectively 17 and 14 wickets; but valuable assistance with the bat was rendered by Mr Murdoch (the captain), who obtained 97, and Mr Boyle, who made 50. The county of Derbyshire was next encountered, on May 17 and 18, and a second victory fell to the Australians, who lost but two wickets in their second innings. No big scores were made. Mr Spofforth took 13 wickets.

At Manchester, on May 20 and two following days, the names of Messrs G F Grace and Gilbert were again to be found among the Eighteen of Longsight, but here once more the "demon" bowler and Mr Boyle carried all before them, and, aided by the 81 of Mr Blackham and the 73 of Mr Bonnor, the giant of the team, the visitors were victorious by ten wickets. Against Eighteen of Rochdale, Mr M'Donnell (51) and Bannerman (43) gained the highest batting honours; but Messrs Boyle and Spofforth, with 18 and 15 wickets respectively, were mainly instrumental in obtaining a win by an innings and 26 runs. The match occupied three days and was completed on June 2.

On the following two days the Australians were placed in opposition to Eighteen of Keighley, but the contest had to be left drawn, by no mean in favour of the Eighteen, none of whom offered any formidable resistance to the bowling of Messrs Spofforth and Boyle, the last named claiming 19 wickets. At Burnley on June 3 and 4 Mr Spofforth's deadly deliveries told wonderfully, causing sad havoc among the Eighteen. Now fewer than 23 wickets fell to his share; and, although the score of the Australians amounted to 148 run only, it proved sufficient to give them a victory by an innings and 27 runs. Mr Murdoch scored 56 and Mr Groube 45.

In their match against Eighteen of Malton on June 7, 8 and 9, the batting all round was moderate. Not so, however, Mr Spofforth's attack, as 19 of the rival team fell to him at a very small cost. The victory was, however, the narrowest yet gained, four wickets only being intact when the game terminated. Their second county match saw a commencement at Dewsbury on June 10, and here the defeat of Yorkshire by six wickets was due in no small measure to their bad fielding, Mr M'Donnell, the top scorer in the second innings, escaping more than once. Mr Palmer in this mat materially assisted Mr Spofforth with the ball.

The Colonials were next to be found at Belfast, where they had, on June 14, 15 and 16, to contend against Eighteen of the North of Ireland Club. Both sides scored 102 in the first innings, and the home team set their opponents the task of 131 runs to get. In obtaining this number but one wicket was lost - that of Mr Murdoch, who contributed 72. Bannerman, his partner, made 45 (not out). Remaining in Ireland, the Colonials. On June 17, opposed Eighteen of Dublin University. The match was extended over three days, but rain prevented its completion and doubtless robbed the visitors of victory.

At Birmingham in the following week they continued their successful march, and, although scoring but 179, beat an eighteen of the district by an innings and nine runs, Mr Palmer being accredited with 17 wickets and Mr Spofforth with 13. Eighteen of Northampton and District next engaged the Australians' attention, and in this instance the "district" proved most elastic, for a reference to the score will show that on the Northampton side were Messrs G F Grace and Gilbert, and Emmett, Potter, Pooley,

Humphrey and the once famous wicket-keeper Plumb. Notwithstanding this, however, a victory by eight wickets was gained, Mr Spofforth taking 17 wickets and Mr Palmer 14.

At Harrogate the Eighteen were assisted by Messrs G F Grace and Gilbert, besides Barlow, the Lancashire professional; but on the second day, June 29, the Colonials had won by ten wickets. Mr Bonnor contributed 59, the highest score made on either side. It was, however, to the bowling of Messrs Spofforth, Boyle and Palmer that the victory was principally due. So far they had been successful in 11 out of 13 matches in which they had engaged. The fourteenth, played on the first three days of July, against Eighteen of Newcastle, had, like two of its predecessors, to be left drawn, though much in favour of the visiting team, for which Mr Murdoch put together 117 in grand style.

At Middlesborough, on July 5 and 6, they added to their already long list of successes, securing victory by an innings and 26 runs. Mr Spofforth was the hero of this contest, as, besides putting together 45 runs, he obtained 13 wickets. July 9 and 10 found them at Broughton, where they were pitted against an Eighteen of fairly good calibre. Here the Australians made 107 and 98, while their rivals scored 106 and 51 for 11 wickets, so that the contest may be said to have resulted in a very even draw. Mr Bonnor took highest honours with the bat, making 23 and 45, while Messrs Boyle and Palmer tied for premier position in the bowling department with ten wickets each, Mr Spofforth on this occasion taking but six.

Another drawn match followed on July 12, 13 and 14 at Leicester, against the county of that name. In this the Australians scored more heavily than usual, losing but 17 wickets for 342 runs, of which Mr Murdoch claimed 29 and 73. The opposing team completed an innings for 95, so that in all probability had time permitted Leicestershire would have suffered defeat. A score of 119 sufficed to bring about an innings and 21 runs victory over Eighteen of Warwick and District, the match being played on [July] 16 and 17. Mr M'Donnell hit in free, but not faultless, style for 53; while Mr Spofforth secured 19 wickets, or six more than Mr Palmer.

On the Crystal Palace ground three days were exhausted over a match against Fourteen of the Crystal Palace Club, with four professionals. In the result, arrived at on July 21, the Australians won by four wickets. Messrs Spofforth and Palmer divided the bowling honours pretty evenly, the former taking 17 wickets and the latter 16. At Huddersfield, on July 22 &c., the Yorkshire County Eleven (again without Ulyett) tried conclusions a second time with the Australians. Rain interfered sadly with the affair, which had to be left drawn when Yorkshire had finished an innings for 78 and Australia had lost six wickets for 229 runs; Mr Groube 61, Mr Spofforth 44 and Mr Blackham 42 (not out) were most useful with the bat.

Each of the next two encounters played against eighteens, respectively at Hull and Clifton, had to be relegated to the list of drawn matches, but at both the position of affairs at the close was greatly in favour of the colonists. On August 2 was commenced at Clifton the most interesting match of the series up to that date. Gloucestershire had collected an excellent team, and owing principally to the batting of Messrs E M Grace, 65, and Gilbert, 48, held a balance of 81 runs on the first innings. Bad fielding – a rare occurrence with the western county – enabled the Australians to accumulate 243 runs in their second venture, Mr M'Donnell escaping no fewer than five times while making 79 runs. Wanting 162 to win, Gloucestershire failed to get within 65 of that sum.

Mr Spofforth's eight wickets went a long way to insure the eight wickets victory achieved at Leeds against Eighteen of Hunslet on August 5, 6 and 7; and a similar performance on the three following days helped materially to give the Australians a ten wickets win against Eighteen of Bradford. A still more decisive advantage was gained over Eighteen of Sunderland, where Messrs Blackham and Bonnor scored 52 each out of the 171 runs obtained; but at Scarborough the Australians suffered their first defeat, the match lasting three days, ending in a victory by the Yorkshiremen by 90 runs on August 21. Here it was, when opposing a bowler named Franks, that Mr Spofforth received the injury to his right hand which has prevented his taking part in any of the subsequent contests except that just concluded.

A one innings victory over Eighteen of Yeadon, a defeat by 100 runs at the hands of Eighteen of Stockport on August 27 & c., and a draw in favour of Eighteen of Hastings and District brings the record up to August 30, when at Kennington Oval the most important of all their matches was begun. Lovely weather prevailed throughout the contest, and the number of persons that assembled to witness it was the largest ever known to have been present at any game of cricket. The play, or the greater portion of it, was equal to, if not better than, any ever before seen. The grand batting of Messrs Murdoch (153) and W G Grace (152), the excellent displays of Mr A P Lucas, Lord Harris, Mr A G Steel, Mr F Penn, Mr Boyle, Mr Alexander, Mr Moule and Mr M'Donnell for their respective sides will live in the memory of those who take an interest in cricket and cricketers for years to come, and the way in which what at one time appeared like an ignominious defeat was converted into a beating which reflected no disgrace on the vanquished will also not easily be forgotten.

It is a far cry from London to Scotland, and yet this journey was performed twice during the next nine days by the Australians. At Glasgow, against Eighteen of the Clydesdale Club, they obtained 111 and 47 for one wicket, while the home team put together 224 for a completed innings. Sussex on September 13, 14 and 15 also made a draw of it, and although 47 runs behind on the first innings they stood a very fair chance of winning, as two wickets of their second innings realized 156. Mr Ellis, on behalf of the home team, was not out in each venture with 50 and 58, while Mr Lucas scored 66 in the second essay.

Back to Scotland, journeying of course all night, Edinburgh was visited on September 16, and two days subsequently the Australians were rewarded with a six wickets victory over the Gentlemen of Scotland, who received assistance from the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr A G Steel. An even draw resulted in the match at Bradford against the Players of the North of England, which was played on September 20, 21 and 22, but against Notts, the last match but one, Shrewsbury's batting and Alfred Shaw's bowling enabled the county to win a most interesting contest by a wicket. This was effected on Saturday, and after a day's rest the Australians commenced the match which was brought to so exciting a finish yesterday afternoon. From the foregoing it may be gleaned that of the 37 matches engaged in by the Australians 21 resulted in their favour, four were lost and the remainder drawn.

No statement has been made as to the financial result of the Australian tour; but even in matches against eighteens the attendances have been usually large. In their two recent metropolitan encounters they have received nearly £1,900.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS (report from Tuesday 5 October, page 6)

The members of the Australian cricket team yesterday received another mark of the good will they have won. At noon they were presented with some pieces of silver plate by Australian Colonists in London. The ceremony took place at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel, the Hon F T Sargood, a member of the Defence Commission for the Colonies, presiding. The company numbered about 200.

The toast of "The Queen" having been duly honoured, the Chairman, in presenting a silver loving-cup to Mr W L Murdoch, the captain of the team, remarked that this was the second team which had come to these shores from Australia for the purpose of trying conclusions with Old England, and said he thought that it showed luck on their part, seeing that cricket was pre-eminently an English game. It was true that teams from England had at different times visited Australia who had been, he might say, their tutors; but it would be admitted that the young Australians had proved themselves apt scholars. England had been somewhat in the position of a father who taught his son to play the game, and found, by-and-by, that he had as much as he could do to hold his own.

After referring to the remarkable scores made by his friend on the right (Mr Murdoch, the captain of the team), Mr Sargood said he was glad when Mr Clarke called upon him and suggested that Australians in England should in some way show their appreciation of the skill and courage shown by this team in coming to the old country to play the national game. The work they had got through in playing and in travelling about was noticeable. They had since their arrival played 37 matches, of which 26 were against odds. They had won 21 and lost 4, while 12 were drawn. For some time there was a fear that they might not have an opportunity of playing against the finest players in England, and great was their satisfaction when Lord Harris succeeded in raising a team such as was rarely to be met on any ground.

Having dwelt on the fortunes of the team at the Kennington Oval match, and referred to the high score of 153 made by Mr Murdoch on that occasion as something for the Australians to be proud of, he said he was sure that not only Lord Harris, but all members of the English team must have regretted the enforced absence of Mr Spofforth on that occasion. He did not say that the result would have been different, but he might fearlessly say that the scoring of the English team would have been very different, and it was to be regretted that in such a struggle between a picked team from Australia and a picked English team the best bowler of the Australian team should have been absent. With regard to fielding, it had been noticed that the English played flat-footed - they could be heard coming - while the Australians ran on their toes. Having given credit to the Australians as a team for their discipline, he proposed "The Health of Mr Murdoch," and presented him with a massive silver loving-cup.

Mr Murdoch, after acknowledging the kind feeling shown towards him, commented on some of the more striking events of the Australian team's matches during this visit. The idea of coming to this country to play was first entertained in 1877, when an Australian club succeeded in beating Lillywhite's professional players. Speaking of the reception they had met with, he said that every colonist regarded England as home. In their match at the Oval they were without the services of their mainstay, Mr Spofforth, but they made up their minds to do their best, and the presence of the large company assembled on this occasion and the handsome souvenirs presented to them sufficiently testified the appreciation of their efforts. In all their matches they had endeavoured to win, and he attributed their

success to the steadiness of the team. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that the interchange of visits of this kind tended to remove misconceptions with regard to the Colonials, and to cement kindly feelings between the colonists and the people of the old country.

The Chairman next proposed "The Health of the Australian Team," and in doing so referred to the doings of Mr Spofforth, who had taken 391 wickets for an average of five runs, and to the scarcely less successful bowling of Messrs Boyle and Palmer, who had respectively taken 250 and 268 wickets for an average of but little over seven runs per wicket. As for Mr Blackham's wicket-keeping, it was a wonder how he saw the balls, to say nothing of catching them. (Laughter.) The chairman, before sitting down, presented to each member of the team a silver tankard bearing a suitable inscription.

Mr Murdoch, in replying, said that at the Oval the team they had to meet was the best ever put in the field for England, and the best side won. (Cheers.) When they saw the names of those they were to meet, they took it as a high compliment to their abilities, and they did their best to win. (Cheers.) After referring, amid laughter, to the loss of the valuable services of the "demon" at the Oval, he expressed the indebtedness of the team to Messrs Palmer and Boyle, who, against the batsmen they had to bowl, had acquitted themselves so well.

Mr Spofforth, in response to loud calls, said that although it might have been very unfortunate for the Australians to lose his services on the occasion to which reference had been made, he could not help thinking that it was fortunate for his reputation that he was compelled to look on — an unwilling spectator. (Laughter and cheers.)

Other toasts followed. The loving-cup, weighing over 100oz. Of solid silver, and the solid silver tankards, all gilt inside, were made by Messrs Elkington and Co.

The Lord Mayor (Sir Francis W Truscott) entertained the Australian Cricketers at the Mansion-house last night, when among those present, many of whom represented English cricket clubs, were . . . [besides the Australian players, well-known English names include Lord Harris, C I Thornton, T S Pearson, W C Wilkinson, C W Alcock and A J Webbe.]

The toasts of "The Queen" and "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family" having been duly honoured, the Lord Mayor said he had to submit to the company the toast of the evening — his honoured guests the Australian team of cricketers. (Prolonged cheers.) he desired to give them, on behalf of the City of London, a warm and most cordial welcome, and although this dinner might, perhaps, appropriately have been given when they arrived in this country, yet he ventured to think that it was much better as it was, for now, after a career of great success, their English friends were met on this occasion to do honour to them before their return to the land of their adoption. (Cheers.) He ventured to say that if anything could gratify Englishmen more than the success of their own cricketers, it was the success of the sons of Old England. (Hear, hear.)

Englishmen recognized in the Australian colonists the same dominant qualities which had won for this country its great position, and they were glad to find that the manly game of cricket had gained such a place in the Australian colonies as it had found for generations past in this, its home, and that it was so successfully practised at the Antipodes that the

Australians could come among us, the "old stagers," and beat us with our own weapons. (Hear, hear.) He was glad, as Chief Magistrate of the City of London, before their departure, to have an opportunity of receiving them as the guests of the ancient Corporation of the City of London.

Mr W L Murdoch, replying for the Australian team of cricketers, expressed the pleasure they felt at the honour of being entertained at the Mansion-house by the Lord Mayor of London. It was a compliment which would be highly appreciated by every person in Australia. When the Stephensons visited the Colonies a few years ago, the most sanguine Australian would never have anticipated that a team of Australian cricketers would so soon afterwards come to England and be entertained by the Lord Mayor of London. But since that time English teams had been out to Australia and had played the noble game to good purpose; the Australians, he hoped, had proved bright pupils; and if an Australian team should some day succeed in beating a picked team of England, the English, who had taught the Australians to play, would have themselves to thank. (Hear, hear.)

He wished to say just a few words about a matter which on their arrival looked like a little cloud in the distance. It had arisen from, as he thought, a little want of judgment on the part of a captain of a colonial team; but happily the match at the Oval had dissipated that little cloud. For this the Australians had to thank a gentleman whose heart was in the game and who ever played it in the most honourable spirit - he spoke of Lord Harris. After making a kindly allusion to the late Mr G F Grace, whose death this team and all Australian cricketers would regret as deeply as the lamented gentleman's English friends, Mr Murdoch concluded by thanking the Lord Mayor for the manner in which his lordship had proposed the toast, and the company for the way in which it had been received.

The Lord Mayor, in proposing the health of "The Cricketers of England," explained to his Australian guests that, owing to the lateness of the season, many of our legislators and others were now seeking health and much-needed rest abroad or in the country, and were therefore unable to be present on this occasion.

Lord Harris, with whose name the toast was coupled, in acknowledging the compliment, began by thanking Mr Murdoch for his very kind allusion to a matter it was unnecessary here to dilate upon. That book was closed for ever. (Cheers.) Turning to the occasion of the evening's meeting, he said that in the annals of cricket no more memorable event than this entertainment had ever taken place. To the world in general it might seem strange that the Lord Mayor of London should thus honour what to the world in general appeared to be but a game, but cricketers would duly appreciate the honour shown to cricket. It was true that this was not the first time that the standing earned for itself by the philathletic world had been recognized by the Lord Mayor of London. (Hear, hear.) Their aquatic brethren had been honoured as they had been honoured that night, and he took it that his lordship and his predecessor had alike wished to recognize the fact that the athletic school which had advanced with such rapid strides during this century was a necessity in the present day, and more - that it was no discredit to the age we lived in. (Hear.)

Some would doubtless think that far too much was made of cricket; that too much time was given to it; and that, after all, it was but a game. They erred through ignorance. It was more than a game; it was a school of itself, and a grand school too (hear, hear), for it encouraged the good and discouraged the bad qualities of human nature. It was a game which, as one of its many admirers had said, "by giving health, vigour and energy to the

frame, had also a good sound moral tendency. It demands the exercise of both physical and intellectual powers, requiring at once a cool head, a steady hand and a sharp eye, as well as sound judgment. What the cultivated brain wills to be done the trained arm must strive to execute. The game is, in short, beneficial in a double sense, conferring on the body health, and on the mind that calm and deliberate judgment which is so admirable a preparation for the sterner duties of life."

That writer might, too, easily have shown how it encouraged self-denial, and how abhorrent jealousy, selfishness, cruelty or oppression were to it. Two characteristics peculiar to cricket he wished to be allowed just to notice. The first was its purity; the entire absence in its pursuit of any inducement except honour. There were, it was true, on the river elsewhere isolated cases of honour being the sole reward, but these instances were as rare as the matches at cricket where a prize was given to the winners. He did not, however, say that the honour of winning the race was not the inducement on the river and on the running-path, or that the prize was not secondary to the honour. In the Olympian Games the winner was rewarded with a laurel wreath, but the only thing in the shape of even a laurel wreath the cricketer received was the cipher that rewarded the unsuccessful. (Laughter.) The second remarkable characteristic it had remained for the Lord Mayor to recognize and that was the fact that the game of cricket had done more to draw the Mother Country and the Colonies of Australia together than years of beneficial legislation could have done. (Hear, hear.)

Passing from the general aspect of the game, Lord Harris next expressed the pleasure it gave him to meet the Australian cricketers on this occasion, and his admiration of their performances during the last few months. English cricketers had been struck with the rapid progress made in the game by the colonists since 1878. Having since then experienced an Australian summer, twice the length of the gloomy season which still went by that name in England, he judged that this difference in climate of itself was quite as well calculated to produce good cricketers as all our experience, and he felt sure that a team equal to the best England could produce would in a few years come here from Australia. Having deprecated any jealous feeling should this be the case, he concluded by giving some friendly hints to their visitors with a view to rendering their visit more agreeable should they come again another year . . .