

THE SWANSEA MUNICIPAL
Secondary School Magazine.

No. 43.

JULY, 1926.



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EDITORIAL.

In spite of oft repeated requests, less matter than usual has been received for the Magazine, and Mill cannot grind the grist that will not come. This number is, therefore, thinner than usual and consists chiefly of Paris and Poetry.

Only one House has sent in a report of its Social and there is no account of the House Football, of the School Senior Rugby, or of the very successful Dramatic Entertainment, but all this belonged to last Term and is already ancient history.

The new building programme is being delayed by the coal strike. If you cannot make bricks without straw, still less can you make brick-buildings without bricks. The forge chimney came down with much dust and din; the two temporary funnel-chimneys are already darkening the windows of IIIr Room.

It is thought that the new Gym. may be ready by next Easter. Then the Manual will migrate to the old Gym. and the boiler house will be installed in the present Manual Room. The De la Beche Street railings have been set back or removed and an outside door is being made into the Canteen kitchen, to give a plausible reason for the new outside gate and steps, or more probably to provide a new coal entrance to the future boiler house.

In connection with this year's National Eisteddfod at Swansea, an Arts & Crafts Exhibition is being held at our School, and Term will, therefore, end on Friday, July 23rd.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The following are recent Old Boy Successes at the Swansea University College :—

D. Lawrence Thomas, B.A., 1st Class Honours French.
 Edwin Jones, B.A., 2nd Class (2a) Honours French.
 Cliff. S. Morgan, B.A., 2nd Class (2a) Honours French.
 H. E. Ede, B.A., 2nd Class (2b) Honours French.
 G. B. Pepper, B.A. Leon J. Cole, B.A. H. G. Messer, B.Sc.

One of our Old Boys, Mr. A. E. Fairs, who won a King's Cadetship to Sandringham direct from School, has this year been selected by examination to be one of the Accountant Officers in the Royal Air Force, at a commencing salary of £450.

Sergeant Major O. A. Bird, who had been Gym. Instructor at the School for over twenty years, retired last Christmas. The various Forms showed their appreciation of his work with them by giving him suitable gifts along with their best wishes. The Staff presented him with a gold watch, suitably engraved. His successor is Mr. T. E. Burgess, who has entered enthusiastically into his new work.

Monsieur Tartinville has recently passed his Licentiate in Paris and has been appointed French Lecturer at Aberystwyth. Monsieur Grison, whom we met in Paris, will be our new Assistant Français next term.

ROBERTS HOUSE SOCIAL.

The tradition of being the first House to hold a Social was again maintained this year. The guest of the evening was M. Tartinville. After a day's toil all the members of the House sat down to tea in the Dining Room. All the Celebrities sat at one table and were given a good reception. After a good tea we adjourned to the Drawing Room where whist, draughts, and even skittles were indulged in. When these were over, there followed an interval, which was followed by a series of round games. The character of these games cannot be divulged because Mr. Williams holds the "Sole Rights." Suffice it to say that corks are extremely clever at eluding hatpins and that houses of cards are almost as frail as Corporation houses are reported to be. When these were finished, Prizes for the competitions were distributed by Mr. Beanland. It was noticed that one prominent member of the House had to make a speech

before he could have his prize—the seniors may have to answer for this later on.

After our appreciation of the Masters had been shown in the usual manner, a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

T. BEER, 4A.

A VISIT TO ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.

Last summer I spent my August Vacation at Goodwick and one day I decided to pay a visit to St. David's Cathedral. I arrived in St. David's at 2 o'clock, and made my way to the Cathedral. Near the entrance I noticed a very old arch, made of flat stones standing on edge. Then after looking at a few gravestones, I entered the porch of the Cathedral, in which was a small statue of St. David. Stepping through a small door I found myself in the Cathedral. By the wall stood three very old church bells bearing inscriptions perhaps written by some very old monk or priest. On the right I saw a door and entering this I found myself in a room containing stone effigies of Crusaders and princes in an attitude of prayer. From this room I went into another which immediately struck me with its beauty. In front was a marvellous tomb cut out of alabaster. This tomb is the last resting place of some high born lady, a unique example of the stone-mason's art. By the side of this tomb was a beautiful table cut out of alabaster under which were beautiful statuettes of the Saviour and of angels. This room was indeed one of the most beautiful in the Cathedral. It led to the Chapel which contained the High Altar. This was magnificent. The gold rails, candlesticks and Cross gave it a beauty all its own, and the word Sanctus embroidered on the front added colour which made it an awe-inspiring spectacle. Behind this were wall paintings of the crucifixion.

The Chapel contained chairs for the worshippers. Upstairs was the organ. In one room I saw a long chart showing the Coats of Arms of great families and famous people, in another I saw the robes of the Bishop and of other high officials.

In every room in the Cathedral I was struck by the marvellous beauty of the ceilings with their pendants and shields of many colours. Having seen almost everything of importance I went out to look around the ruins of the old church. Then, seeing that my time was going, I caught the bus for Fishguard, having spent a most enjoyable day.

D. J. THOMAS, 3R.

SPORTS, 1926.

- 100 Yards—(Over $15\frac{1}{2}$) 1 H. Williams (10 & 2/5th secs.) (G),
 2 D. E. Jones (L), 3 A. Morgan (L), 4 P. Solomon (B).
 100 Yards—($14\frac{1}{2}$ — $15\frac{1}{2}$) 1 H. Davies (A), 2 J. Povolny (L),
 3 G. David (G), 4 T. A. Carver (L).
 100 Yards—($13\frac{1}{2}$ — $14\frac{1}{2}$) 1 W. John (D), 2 M. Solomon (D),
 3 R. Williams (A), 4 J. V. John (R).
 100 Yards—(Under $13\frac{1}{2}$) 1 D. Thomas (B), 2 B. Gooding (A).
 3 D. Houston (G), 4. R. Fairs (G).
 Throwing the Cricket Ball—(Over $14\frac{1}{2}$) 1 A. Roderick (B),
 2 D. E. Jones (A).
 Throwing the Cricket Ball—(Under $14\frac{1}{2}$) S. Deeble (L),
 2 W. Francis (B).
 Long Jump—(Under $14\frac{1}{2}$) 1 M. Solomon (D) (16 ft.),
 2 R. L. Treharne (D).
 440 Yards—(Over $14\frac{1}{2}$) 1 H. Williams (G) (58 secs),
 2 A. Morgan (L), 3 D. E. Jones (A), 4 P. Solomon (B).
 220 Yards—(Under 14) 1 D. Thomas (B) (31 & 2/5th secs)
 2 R. Williams (A), 3 W. J. Evans (L), 4 J. Birt (G).
 220 Yards—(14 — $15\frac{1}{2}$) 1 J. Povolny (L) (27 & 1/5th secs),
 2 H. Davies (A), 3 G. David (G), 4 Lloyd Hughes (B).
 Long Jump—(Over $14\frac{1}{2}$) 1 D. E. Jones, (A) (17 ft. $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins.),
 2 A. Morgan (L).
 Wheelbarrow—(Over 15) 1 B. Rees & H. J. Richards (D),
 2 E. Dowdle & L. Vagg (R).
 Peg Gathering—(Under $13\frac{1}{2}$) 1 B. Gorvin (D), 2 C. Allen (R),
 3 A. Bainbridge (D), 4 T. Minney (G).
 Three-legged—($13\frac{1}{2}$ — $15\frac{1}{2}$) 1 M. Solomon & W. John (D),
 2 H. Hillman & R. Williams (A).
 Obstacle—(Over 15) 1 B. Rees (D), 2 L. Stephens (G),
 3 A. Short (A), 4 D. E. Jones (A).
 Obstacle—(14—15) 1 M. Solomon (D), 2 R. Burnie (A),
 3 G. David (G), 4 D. H. Thomas (D).
 Obstacle—($13\frac{1}{4}$ —14) 1 R. Williams (A), 2 R. Forman (L),
 3 A. Walter (R), 4 C. Thomas (D).
 Obstacle—(Under $13\frac{1}{4}$) 1 W. Davies (B), 2 D. Houston (G),
 3 R. Fairs (G), 4 T. Buckley (D).
 Sack Race—(Over 15) 1 G. H. Davies (D), 2 V. Phillips (G),
 3 L. Stephens (G), 4 P. Solomon (B).
 Sack Race—(14—15) 1 G. Grant (G), 2 A. Jones (B),
 3 T. Tasker (L), 4 W. Francis (B).
 Sack Race—($13\frac{1}{4}$ —14) 1. H. Lewis (B) 2 G. James (D),
 3 C. Thomas (D), 4 M. Francis (R).
 Sack Race—(Under $13\frac{1}{4}$) 1 O. Maguire (A), 2 W. Davies (B),
 3 B. J. Davies (R), 4 T. Minney (G).
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Phrenologist and Human Scientist, he is as much above the ordinary
lecturer and examiner of heads, as is the skilled medical practitioner
above the quack.”—*The Press*.

2 S. Davies (A), 3 W. Higgs (D) & O. Maguire (A).

Tug of War—1 Llewelyn, 2 Grove.

Boat Race—1 G. G. Rees (Cox) (B), 2 E. Gullick (Cox) (D).

Despatch Race—1 L. Wilson (Senior) (A), 2 E. Levi (Senior) (B).

Chariot Race—1 A. England (Rider) (R), 2 W. Davies, (Rider) (B)

High Jump—(Over 14½) 1 H. Richards (D) (5 ft. 4 ins.), 2 H. Williams (5 ft. 3 ins.) (G).

High Jump—(Under 14½) 1 D. H. Thomas (4 ft. 6 ins.) (D). 2 R. L. Treharne (D).

HOUSE POINTS.

1. Dillwyn ...	40	3. Grove ...	33
2. De la beche...	37	5. Llewelyn ...	29
3. Burns ...	33	6. Roberts ...	7

Senior Championship—H. Williams (IV) (Grove) 12 points.

Junior Championship—D. Thomas (IA) (Burns) 10 points.

JUNIOR SOCCER.

During the first half of the season the play of the Junior Soccer XI was, on the whole, rather poor. The great fault was trying to dribble the ball too much, and especially in front of goal. When once this tendency was removed, the play of the team improved to such an extent that even the League Champions (Dyfatty) succumbed to them.

In the first round of the Hospital Cup Competition it was the School's luck to have a bye. After this, they won their way to the Final by defeating, in turn, Rutland Street (3—2), Oystermouth Council (2—1) and Dyfatty.

The victory in the Semi-Final over the League champions was as meritorious as it was unexpected, the score being 3—0 (D. Houston 2, Alb. Williams 1).

In the Final which was played on the Vetch Field, the team succeeded in gaining a great victory over St. Helen's by 4—0 (D. Houston 3, W. H. Davies 1), and thus the Cup still remains in its position of honour in the corridor, where it has rested since the inception of this competition.

The total proceeds of the match were handed over to the Swansea General Hospital and the latter was the richer by £6.

All the forwards are available for next season, and they should make a good attacking side. Some strong half-backs will be required, however, to replace those stalwarts whose age demands them to be placed on the retired list.

Congratulations are offered to D. Houston who has been elected Captain for the ensuing season.

JUNIOR RUGBY NOTES.

We were successful in our matches after Christmas ; even Dyfatty were defeated by us. It takes our team half a season to settle down.

Unfortunately, owing to Inter-Town games, the League matches are not played out completely in the Spring.

Pentrepoeth put us out of the Cup Competition in the first round.

Our Captain, T. Tasker (3m) was a regular player for the Town team. We have always had at least one representative. Who will represent us next season ?

At a meeting held since the close of the season, there was a tie between Waetzel and Mendus in the voting for the Captaincy next season. Another meeting is to be held to decide between them.

TRIP TO PARIS (Selections).

Our party left Swansea with spirits so gay,
 And arrived at Southampton late in the day.
 In this historic town we saw many a sight ;
 Then a jolly good feed soon put us all right.

* * * * *

The seven next days were filled with delight,
 Sight-seeing by day and operas by night.
 Meanwhile the time flew only too fast,
 And my thoughts of Paris for ever will last.

* * * * *

So we thank Mr. Beanland who got up the trip,
 In sporting parlance it was a real snip.
 Messrs. Williams and Jones we also do praise
 For th' attention they gave us during ten days.

S.M. (2R).

ST. DAVID'S DAY.

The Rev. Chancellor J. H. Watkins-Jones addressed the School on St. David's Day and gave an account of the life and work of St. David. He also mentioned certain legends including that of the man with the withered leg, which became unwithered and then rewithered, because two sound legs led him into more temptation than one leg. St. David was a little man and in order that he might be higher than his audience, the flat ground rose into a hill to form a pulpit for him ; that legend must be true, for the Rev. Chancellor had seen the hill himself. St. David had done nothing but good in his life-time and, therefore, his memory was still with us.

TO THE BUTTERFLY.

Thou art the darling of the flowery world,
 'Neath tinkling cowslips art thou softly curled,
 In soft repose—a calm sweet sleep of pleasant dreams,
 As when an Oriental in an opium den,
 Overcome with fumes, flies from the World and seems
 To hear a song while in his dazed state,
 So dost thou hear the curlew on the silent fen,
 Or blackbird warbling shrilly to his mate.
 For thou'rt overpow'ed with fragrance from the scented dew,
 The Sun glides off the brilliance of thy painted wings
 In showering tints of scarlet, gold and blue.
 Like the rainbow-tinted spray which a cataract flings,
 So let us cast away each dismal morn
 In this our life, like thee to plunge in sleep profound.
 Forget your grief thro' sleep ; another day will dawn,
 And on the ruined temples of the old, new joy is found.

H. DAVIES (V).

NATURE'S REVENGE.

Man can eat, and jest, and kill
 And quaff of pleasure's cup his fill
 Yet never drink of the wonder of life ;
 Men pass on unthrilled, unstirred
 By the pure delight in the song of a bird ;
 They turn music itself to strife.
 Man heeds not the pain of God's little things
 The death of a sparrow his heart never wrings
 He rears for slaughter the pheasant's brood ;
 He hunts for pleasure and not for food ;
 He gives bondage for swiftness, for beauty the knife—
 For the glory and joy of the universe
 Man returns thanks—in a curse !

Flowers will bud, and bloom, and fade
 The oak-tree spread, and doff its shade,
 The thrush sweet wooing make ;
 And fish still dait in river-pool
 Through amber depths, in shade thrice cool
 And long their pleasure take ;
 And grasshoppers chirp by an open grave
 Unheeding if man or weep or rave ;
 Ants keep their plodding industry,
 And gnats still dance 'neath (the) poplar tree
 And feel not man's heartache :
 For the burden of human grief and wrong
 Nature gives back—a song !

W. IDRIS JONES.

PRIZE DAY.

Since the war Prize Days have always been held in the School itself, but this year it was held in the Central Hall and parents and friends were invited.

The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Education Committee (Dr. G. Arbour Stephens) who hoped that future years would see an increasing number of parents present in the larger School Hall. He also insisted on the importance of the proper feeding of boys, if they were to do well at school.

After the Head Master had given his Report Mr. D. E. Jones, B.Sc., Ex. H.M.I., delivered an address. Dr. Mary Williams distributed the prizes very gracefully and suitably congratulated each prize-winner. She explained how a little effort would enable a boy to spend a holiday in France quite cheaply, and also emphasized the importance of learning Spanish.

The School String Orchestra gave two items which were well received. There were short recitations in English, Welsh and French.

Monsieur Le Bars made a humorous speech in proposing a vote of thanks and Mr. B. B. Skirrow, H.M.I., seconded in more serious vein.

THE HEROES OF THE FIFTH.

How errs the knave who dares deny we've worked !
 How rash is he and base, who says we've shirked !
 For we'd resolved at hard work long to stick
 To pass that awe-inspiring Lond. Matric.

We've e'en dispensed with games throughout the term
 (Because, perhaps, on this the Head was firm)
 We've burned the mid-night oil, omitted cricket :
 To pass that dread exam, one's bound to stick it.

But, as they say, each cloud is silver lined,
 And e'en the sternest master can be kind.
 We've finished now with Swift's satiric diction
 And satisfy ourselves with harmless fiction.

Of Euclid we have surely seen the last ;
 The days of Arnold's heroes now are past ;
 For what care we though all speak Sohrab's fame,
 And Rustum might be merely just a name.

So, later in the month, our fate we'll hear,
 Our patience will be then quite out of gear.
 And if our hopes of passing are not wrecked,
 We'll then return, our brows with oak bedeck'd.

R. DREW (V).

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THE PARIS TRIP.

A happy party of forty-two boys left Swansea for a ten days' trip to Paris during the Easter Vacation under the guidance of Messrs. Beanland, Jones and Williams.

After an enjoyable journey to Southampton in a saloon carriage, our party was met by Southampton Schoolmasters and the Town Librarian who kindly showed us round the historic seaport, with its floating dock, Woolhouse and Tudor House, and after tea accompanied us to the extensive recreation grounds outside the town.

Monsieur Guillaume, who had organised the trip under the auspices of the Compagnie Française du Tourisme, met us on the quay and after passing the Customs duly conducted us on board the *Normania*. The addition of 45 passengers to its normal number was more than the second class cabin could accommodate and certain boys and one master were relegated to steerage. The experiences of these latter are best left unrecorded; suffice it to say that a hardy salt who declared it "the calmest voyage for years" was greatly discredited.

The Customs provided a novel diversion on landing at Le Havre where four hours were pleasantly spent. Monsieur Guillaume had hoped to conduct us over the liner *La France*, but we were a day too late and so instead he showed us round the docks, the fore-shore and the town and also arranged for our first French déjeuner. Some of the juniors tried to make a meal of the Hors d'oeuvre, thinking it was an American quick lunch, and were surprised when other courses followed.

When we arrived in Paris, we were met by two of our former Assistants Français, Messieurs Augustin and Berthier, and by two charabancs, *alias* "Auto-Cars," which took us through crowded traffic along many fine boulevards and down the *Champs Elysées* to our new home, the Pensionnat de Passy. This proved to be a large school of 1000 boys of whom 300 were boarders, but all were away on holiday.

After an excellent *dîner*, we sallied forth to have our first glimpse of the Eiffel Tower at close quarters and of the Seine with its many lights, and so home to bed up four (or was it six?) flights of stairs to the dortoir de St. Paul, which contained 100 beds. This must have been a dormitory for the Middle School; the beds were hardly long enough for certain lanky members of our party. The only mirror available on the following morning was one of half-penny size, from some Junior's Vanity Bag.

Morning ablutions à l'anglaise were difficult under the row of thread-like jets of water—eighteen inches apart—above the long leaden trough. How we longed for an English wash basin in which to get a good sousing. The shower-baths, shown in the school picture postcards, would have been delightful, but the somewhat morose major-domo would not sanction shower-baths, either before breakfast or after late dinner, but only at four o'clock in the afternoon. It was a case of take it or leave it, and we left it. When collective *pourboires* were assigned according to merit on the final day, someone wore a sad, wan smile of hope . . . not realised. On the other hand, the head waiter, with the Harold Lloyd glasses, was a cheerful soul whom we shall always remember with pleasure. Pea-soup and one other dish were somehow not quite popular, he could not understand why and this grieved his heart. Certain other dishes, however, called for more encores than he could supply. Butter we never saw ; as one of the Juniors expressed it, " We had *bare* bread for breakfast."

The second day was full of excitement. We visited many historic buildings :—the Pantheon, the Louvre, Palais de Justice, Notre Dame, Sacré Cœur, Conciergerie. In the Senate House all admired the wonderful Gobelin Tapestries which some thought were paintings ; several sat in the seats of Victor Hugo and Poincaré.

On a later day we visited the leading School in Paris, Lycée Louis le Grand (2000 pupils). Here, from one of the quadrangles we saw the room once occupied by Molière. On one of the long desks was carved a curious motto : *La vie est un oignon qu'on épluche en pleurant.*

Most boys went up the Eiffel Tower ; some went by boat to the Louvre and saw the Zouave at one of the bridges.

Déjeuner was at midday and *dîner* at 7.0 and the excellence of the food was acclaimed by all : but by 4 o'clock each day we were feeling rather hungry and much pocket money was spent in consequence on chocolates and biscuits.

On Saturday evening we went to a French Cinema where we had an enjoyable time. Some episodes from the International Rugby Match between France and Wales were shown on the screen, and, much to the surprise of the audience, these were greeted by tremendous cheers and cries of " Pays de Galles " which emanated from our quarter.

Sunday morning found us visiting the Madeleine Church. It was a wonderful building, its architecture being in the Corinthian style. The altar was lit up by candles—the gifts of the worshippers—and through the air floated the melodious notes of its wonderful organ.

At the Opera House we heard "Samson & Delilah" and "The Magic Flute," and during the intervals visited the magnificent *foyer*. Other experiences were provided by the *ouvreauses* and the *esquimaux*—and citronade. Our musicians counted eighty players in the orchestra.

We visited many places of interest outside Paris, including the Château St. Germain, where the exiled Stuart James II and his family made their home, the Trianons, the Palace of Versailles and Malmaison. Our guide took us to the Hall of Mirrors, where the Peace Treaty was signed in 1919, and also showed us the marble staircase where the Swiss Guard heroically defended the Royal Family in 1789. We had been under the impression that this incident took place at the Tuileries.

Early one morning a small party accompanied Mr. Beanland to the French Covent Garden, Les Halles Centrales, but the only thing purchased was experience. After the usual breakfast of chocolate or café au lait and pain à discretion, the Invalides was visited, and in the evening Molière's Theatre. During the play "L'Abbé Constantin," the old song "Dixie" was sung in English and the quaint pronunciation caused us much amusement. At a less classic Theatre we saw "Charlie's Aunt" in French.

Shopping day was a universal source of delight. *Combien ceci?* ". . . x . . . x . . . Voilà, Monsieur." Our Senior Prefect, wearing no cap, was mistaken for a shop-walker, and when interrogated, gave straight answers: *Allez tout droit, madame*.

The same prefect once gallantly led a forlorn section on the Metro (*Etoile-Italie*), when our party was ruthlessly divided into two unequal parts by the platform gate. This first section was hustled into a wrong train, and into a First Class carriage at that, hence exciting linguistic encounter with official, but, under such able leadership, it succeeded in reaching home first.

The French exchange was very favourable to holidays in France and all goods seemed remarkably cheap. Mild excitement was caused on the return journey when an English Customs Officer mistook a bottle of lime juice for a quart bottle of scent.

A photograph was taken of our party, with Joan of Arc in the background. M. Augustin, who was able to stay with us all the time, is also in it.

After *dîner* on the last evening, when the French boys were already beginning to return, a leaving ceremony was held in the courtyard. A vote of thanks was given to the Secretary of the College and his assistants by W. H. D. Davies in French, after which the Welsh, English and

French National Anthems were sung with much gusto. This was followed by the School yell and then our auto-cars took us to St. Lazare Station in the only rain we experienced in Paris.

At Salisbury we broke our journey for lunch and visited the Cathedral and Stonehenge. And so home.

When are we going again, Sir ?

GEHVWHDDVI.

THE GWAEN RIVER.

Thou lovely Gwaen, flow on for evermore,
 From quiet dingle to the echoing shore.
 It is a Summer morn and I
 Prone on the banks of the foaming river lie,
 Humid the air, the crooning wind
 Sighs mournful songs that captivate the mind,
 The o'erhanging woodlands silent as the tomb,
 While flow'rs drink dewdrops in the purple gloom.
 Fair shrubs luxuriate in the mellow air ;
 The trembling fern, it nods in deep despair,
 And orchids 'cumbered with the pearly dew
 They weep for joy and wear their brightest hue
 Of dazzling red, the sea of waving grass
 Laughs loud, caressed by warm winds as they pass,
 And hosts of bees in yellow bands swarm by
 With drowsy drones—a dark mass hurtling thro the sky.
 Flow on, thou everlasting song in headlong flight,
 And mirror in thy depths the wooded height,
 That thro' a narrow vale for miles doth pour along,
 Thy limpid waters gushing with a gurgling song,
 —O'er rocky stones and pebbles gleaming bright
 O'er many a weary weir—a lovely sight.
 Where comes a groan from midst the bursting foam
 —“On, roaring steed, to thy watery home”
 Roll on, roll on, now fast, now slow ;
 A hush, now pausing, scarce doth flow.
 The leaping trout, like arrows silvered in the day,
 Bright shooting stars, they sport and play
 The woods are far behind ; the watermill,
 In ruin lies, its tongue is now for ever still.
 Snug in the creek, the fishing village fair,
 Its white walls flashing in the noonday glare.
 Above, the seagulls scream and screech,
 Thou heedest not but dashest to the beach.
 Farewell, O Stream, thou rushest to the sea,
 And she with open arms embraces thee. H. DAVIES (V).

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