

RETIREMENT OF
MR. LIONEL JAMES, M.A.,
HEAD MASTER OF
MONMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

It is, we are sure, in accordance with a very general feeling throughout the town and neighbourhood that we express much regret at the impending departure from Monmouth of Mr. Lionel James, who, owing to failing health, as the result of over work, has been compelled to resign his appointment of Head Master of the Monmouth Grammar School. For 21 years Mr. James has held the position in question to the infinite advantage of the school; and many of his old pupils—not a few holding important posts in distant lands—would be among the first to acknowledge what they owe to Mr. James for an early training which so well fitted them, in every way, for their respective successful careers. The retiring Head Master's devotion to every branch of his scholastic work, and his keen interest in his boys, and staff, are, locally, well recognised. His assistant masters must indeed, especially realise their indebtedness to him in many respects, for it has been his constant endeavour to advance their welfare while keeping his own claims to fuller recognition in the background. So commendable a trait in Mr. James' innumerable sterling qualities is deserving of prominent mention at a time when self-abnegation of the nature in question is far too rare and, when, unfortunately, the maxim of "Everyone for himself" is so frequently to be found in actual practice.

Mr. James entered Westminster School as a Queen's Scholar in 1882 where he remained until 1887. Within that period he was captain of the school in the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, when the Queen's Scholars were present at the Jubilee services in the Abbey. In 1887 he was elected head of Scholarship at Christ Church, Oxford, where in 1889 he took 1st class honours in Classical Moderations and in 1891 2nd class in Literæ Humaniores. Mr. James delivered the Busby Oration (on John Wesley) at the Christ Church Gaudy in 1892. He played for Christ Church Association football team which won the inter-collegiate cup two years in succession. In 1890 Mr. James was secretary of the Chatham Club, succeeding Sir Comyns Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield's nephew) in that office. The secretary of the other Oxford Conservative Club in the same year was Lord Hugh Cecil; Lord Goschen was the principal guest at the joint dinner of the two clubs. During his secretaryship Liberal Unionists were admitted to the club—they were excluded from the Clubroom

Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Lionel James.—The continued kindness and generosity which Mr. and Mrs. Lionel James have shown to the inhabitants of the Almshouses was the outcome of a presentation to them on Friday last. Mr. and Mrs. James had invited the inhabitants to tea in the Big School room of the Monmouth Grammar School, as a farewell to them before they leave Monmouth. The presentation of a set of Georgian glasses with jug was a surprise which was very greatly appreciated. Nurse Midwinter made the presentation and in doing so said they were all thankful to be able to show some slight appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. James' continual kindness to them. In presenting them with the glasses they had the best wishes and respectful memories of the Almspeople; Mrs. Jeremy (the late nurse) and herself. Both Mr. and Mrs. James in reply thanked the donors for their kindness and said words could not express the pleasure they had received that afternoon.