

56 almost a complete loss. It was those few years that caused me to lose something that I was never able to recover. This Mr Smith remained with us less than a year, and was succeeded by a Mr John Baldwin, about the end of 1874 or beginning of 1875. He was an English trained teacher and under his tuition, the school reached its palmy days of teaching, and its record was one of, if not the highest in scholastic attainments under the Canterbury Board of Education. I was under his tuition until for about four years or more, but he stayed in the district for nine years, and later became the Head Master of the Sydenham School, with a roll of nearly one thousand children. He was a hard master, in some ways, a strict disciplinarian, a good teacher, knowing how to impart knowledge, even if it had to be done from the head downwards to well below the shoulders. In addition he was a good cricketer.

On the whole, however, I liked him, others

57 may have had different opinions. It was only those few years that I had passed through the highest standards, and into Latin Euclid and Algebra. I never received any severe punishment from him, I do not know that I ever deserved it. But, later whilst in the upper standards, my mate at that <sup>time</sup>, the only boy in the ~~sixth~~ sixth standard, complained to him that I was being favoured. I had not noticed it, but evidently he had been thinking the matter over and had come to the conclusion that he was getting an undue share of the care. However, the teacher denied any favouritism. But I did notice afterwards that I did get a good deal more whacking than previously, until I at last turned on him and accused him of giving me for the same mistakes three strokes for the other boys one. As I record these matters of very many years ago, there comes to me the thought of what a great difference there is now