

Date: 28 April 1894

Opposition: Newton Heath

Competition: Test Match

Mercury

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Liverpool Mercury.

AND LIVERPOOL CHRONICLE, AT GENERAL APPOINTMENT

A brilliant finish to a brilliant season's work is the most expressive manner of summing up Liverpool's performance on Saturday against Newton Heath. Nobly have the team debarred themselves of several indulgences and placed themselves under certain restraints, thus laudably carrying out the committee's wishes and commands, and the result is a grand and most fitting finish to a brief, yet most extraordinary career. The match itself calls for but little comment, so superior did Liverpool prove themselves in every department over Newton Heath. As is usual in all decisive matches of the description of that of Saturday the opening manoeuvres were of a nondescript order, both sides, as it were, waiting to find out the strong and weak play of their opponents, but ere a quarter of an hour had elapsed, it may be truthfully stated that the Liverpool team had fairly got the measure of their antagonists, who never at any period of the game afterwards played with confidence or showed signs of winning, or even of holding their own. The game was virtually settled after an half an hour's play, when the Liverpool forwards by smarter and more methodical football had secured two goals. These points were so magnificently worked for that it took the sting—if they ever possessed any—out of the Heathens completely, whose forward play was almost useless against the fine half-back tactics of M'Cartney, M'Que, and M'Bride; and if Donaldson and his supporters managed to elude this trio, there was the watchful Hannah and the irresistible M'Lean ready to stop and nip in the bud the incipient and feeble assaults. So little did M. M'Queen have to do that only one direct shot came to him during the match; while, on the other hand, Falls, especially during the latter stages of the first half, saved a plethora of shots in a most brilliant and finished manner. Although somewhat invidious to single out any individual of a team who so concertedly worked together with the one idea, praise must be given to M'Bride for as fine an exposition of sterling half-back play as ever he has shown in his career, while a similar meed of commendation must be apportioned to Gordon and Bradshaw for the meritorious manner in which they in particular brought about the downfall of the Manchester team. The ubiquitous M'Que was as alert as ever, and M'Cartney so successfully shadowed Peden that that fier was very seldom in evidence. Henderson had to face the best player of the Newton team, M'Naught, yet he played a very useful game. M'Vean, as of yore,

did Trojan work, being ever on the ball, whilst H. M'Queen, in spite of his being nearly drowned at Southport baths on Friday, utilised his opportunities to the utmost. Of the Heathens, Falls, Perrins, M'Naught, and Errantz were about the only individuals to display decent form. Reviewing the whole season's work of Liverpool nothing but credit and congratulation can be awarded to both the team and executive. The harmony which has existed between these from the very commencement augured well for the grand finale which has been accomplished. Especially must the committee be complimented upon the undoubted tact shown, first in the selection, and afterwards in the management of their players. The achievements of the team have aroused an enormous amount of curiosity and interest throughout the country, and have made them about the best drawing club of the season. At home, however, their performances have been somewhat discounted by many, and been unfavourably compared to those of their local rivals; but as a parallel does not exist in any sense of the word between these organisations, in age, financial support, or the standard of the opposing clubs, the comparison is hardly fair. The one point which has told rather against the Anfield Club at home, and consequently had a deterrent effect upon the "gates," is the fact that about the whole of the second division clubs, with perhaps the exception of Notts and Small Heath, have so much better and stronger attack.