

# THE VARSITY

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## A SONG.

I know a little darling maid,  
As sweet as she can be;  
So sweet, that I'm almost afraid,  
She'll steal my heart from me.

It would not be so bad if I  
Could hers for mine obtain;  
But no, no matter how I try,  
I needs must try again.

And should you see her only once,  
She is so debonnaire,  
You would all former loves renounce,  
And worship her, most fair.

Those laughing eyes, her pretty smiles,  
And luscious lips so sweet,  
Would bring me—you—a thousand miles,  
That little maid to greet.

And hourly now for wizard's charms,  
Will I devoutly pray,  
That I may fold her in my arms,  
As my dear fiancée.

—SCOT.

## COLLEGE ATHLETICS.

BY PROF. J. F. MCCURDY.

### II. From the Point of View of the College.

The most pessimistic *laudator temporis acti*, if he takes a survey of the student life of the present, as compared with that of a century or even of a generation ago, must admit that the youth of to-day appear at a decided advantage. It would, perhaps, not be easy to prove that they are better scholars than their predecessors, though I believe that the average standard of knowledge and culture is much higher than that which was reached by the college men of the past. One striking fact, however, is obvious to the most casual inquirer or observer; the students of to-day are being better fitted for the duties of society and citizenship. They are coming more closely into touch with the world in which they live. They are none the less students, marked out as a class by themselves, but they, at the same time, stand nearer to the world without, both in sympathy and in active interest.

This change for the better has doubtless been partly brought about by the practical direction which modern education has taken. But there is another factor of equal importance: I mean the promotion of the proper student life itself. In other words, students have become better men, and better fitted for the uses of the

world, by becoming, in the strict and true sense, better men of their college or university. And nothing has been more helpful in this direction than the modern development of college athletics.

Notice some of the features which mark the line of progress. In the old days "town and gown" was a perpetual symbol of separation, if not of antagonism. Now it is everywhere little more than a traditional phrase. Formerly, the principal out-door recreation of students was the more or less furtive removal of gates, the "conveying" of shop signs, the pulling down of fences, and similar feats of undergraduate humor. Stated out-door exercises being limited, in kind and number, men sought amusement in their rooms, where the temptation to dissipation had full sway in hours of leisure or idleness. Gambling and drinking are certainly not vices characteristic of the present race of college men. Again, the relations between classes are kindlier and more chivalrous. The hazing of individual students is practically at an end in the college world, class rushes or hustles being sufficient to express the mutual repugnance of Sophomores and Freshmen.

Now, it is not a mere coincidence that the diminution of these and concomitant evils has been brought to pass within what may be called the athletic college era. It is quite obvious, indeed, that such a new and absorbing excitement as that awakened in the student community by college sports, must tend to eliminate usages which, if not always mischievous, are at best whimsical and trivial. In the first place, college games and contests afford a series of "events" of engrossing interest, and furnish constant themes for conversation, which if not of the most intellectual character, is not idle or frivolous, and is as refreshing and stimulating as most of the talk one hears. Again, the energy that is put forth in the various sports is so large and spontaneous that little is left for active mischief, were our students so disposed. A fine feature of the case is that the most exciting of the games come off, when so many men, new at college, would suffer most from homesickness and the wiles of the myrmidons.

But the removal or diminution of actual or possible evils is only a part of the service rendered by athletic games to the student body. Apart from their effect upon the participants, as individuals, of which mention was made in the former article, they have such positive advantages as the following: They unite a number of active, enthusiastic fellows in a pressing occupation, which in its very nature is largely unselfish. What is at stake in these contests is not so much one's own reputation for skill or courage, as the standing of the club or team. In most of them, one who plays a so-called "selfish game," falls short of the highest place, no matter how brilliant his performances may be. Taking all the clubs together, we have thus a body of disciplined