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Notes upon the History of Football.

"Very reverend sport, truly."—*Shakespeare*.
"Floreat Rugbeis."—*Horace*.
"Here, when your tackled."—*Dug Alf*.

Such critical students of history as the pupils of the New Glasgow High School need not to be told that only the finer literary works of the ancients have withstood the ravages of time and been transmitted to us. As with their literary works so with their sports—only the best have survived the wear and tear of the ages. The young Greeks and Romans had many amusements of which we know practically nothing, but which, if we knew every rule, we would no more play than we would insist on having school on Saturday, or allow our teachers too much of their own way. One of their favorite games, however, has with little change been handed down to us the dignified manly game of football. It will, I know, be a shock to lovers of British institutions to find that football cannot be included among these, but the facts of history are stubborn. We read in Grecian annals much of a game called *Episkuros*—a game of which Smith writes in his *Dictionary of Antiquities* thus: "It was the game of football, played in much the same way as with us, by a great number of persons divided into parties opposed to one another." From this description it is fair to assume that the captains checked the umpires, the small boy climbed the high board fence, and a forward occasionally lay down in a scrimmage just as in our own day. The high state of Grecian civilization is accounted for when we know that youthful Greeks played football.

The kindred game among the Romans was played with the *harpastum*—a word derived from the verb *harpastzo*, to seize; which proves conclusively that the Romans adopted the Rugby rules. We quote from Rich. *Dictionary of Antiquities*, article *Harpastum*: "The game in which it (the *harpastum*) was used was played with a single ball, and any number of persons divided into two parties, the object of each person being to seize the ball from the ground and to throw it amongst his friends. The party who succeeded in casting it out of bounds gained the victory." The Latin author, Martial, speaks of the *pulcherrima* (the dusty) *harpastu* and no reasonable man can doubt that in trying to snatch the ball from the ground the players would have some falls; and even if the city of seven hills was not as muddy as New Glasgow they would soil their costumes. Consequently, just as with us, before a team would sit for its photos the members would have to get their pants washed. Thus history repeats itself. No dudes played with the *harpastum*, for we are told that the game required a great deal of bodily exertion, and dudes don't pine for bodily exertion. Here again we notice a similarity between the ancient and modern game. Whoever heard of a dude playing football? Let echo answer if it can. It would be as remarkable to have a dude play football, as would be to know our lessons on Monday, or see feathers on a dog's tail.

The Romans introduced this gentle and joyous sport into England. They initiated the Britons into its mysteries, and when the Roman troops were called home to protect the fast falling empire, the game still flourished. The Saxons came