

RUGBY FOOTBALL AND THE UNIVERSITY.

THE most celebrated of all field sports of to-day are cricket and Rugby football; and while neither game is Canadian in origin, there are no games which find more acceptance in Canada among true sportsmen, or deserve more recognition from the general public.

To the latter cricket cannot appeal as strongly as many other sports; but the interest taken by spectators in a game of Rugby football has assured for that sport the utmost degree of popularity wherever the game is played. This being so, it is not unnatural that the team which succeeds during the season in achieving marked success receives honor, not only at the hands of its immediate supporters, but from all those who take an interest in the game.

With the winning of the Championship, not only of Ontario, but of Canada,



Varsity Team.

and has gone on steadily progressing in favor since that time.

The undergraduates of the later seventies first saw the Rugby ball at Varsity; the game had been played previously at Upper Canada College, and was introduced into the University by men from that preparatory school. Truly great results have sometimes small beginnings, and it is reported that the first Varsity team was beaten by one from Upper Canada. Varsity, however, soon grew stronger, and was able to place a better team on the field, and in 1881 the first inter-college match with McGill was played on the Lawn, in which Varsity was defeated, and the following year she suffered a second defeat at Montreal.

On the seventh of January, 1883, the Ontario Rugby Football Union was formed, and the fall of the same year saw Varsity competing with teams from all parts of Ontario for the championship; London, Stratford, Hamilton, Queen's,



Queen's Team.

by the University of Toronto team, Rugby has become a matter of paramount importance to every undergraduate, and the people of Toronto have had their interest in the noble game revived and redoubled by the bringing of the championship to their city.

It is our desire to sketch briefly the history and development of the game at our Alma Mater, to show how it began with repeated defeat and discouragement, and how it has ended in gratifying and well-earned success.

The game is English in origin, and was first played at the great preparatory school at Rugby in Warwickshire; hence the name which still clings to it. The early game, when the "school-house" played the "school," exhibited but little of the science which now characterizes it; and the English game of to-day is a less scientific one than the Canadian. The game was first played in Canada in 1871,



Hamilton Team.