

host of aspiring candidates for the red and white. It is the duty of the students generally to encourage the efforts of the teams and executive ; if the trophy finds its resting-place in our halls, all will join in the glory ; then let all unite in compassing that desirable end. In this connection, we would draw special attention to the game with Ottawa college—possibly our most dangerous rivals—on the 24th. Excursion rates will be

granted if a sufficient number can be had to go. We cannot too strongly impress on our readers the importance of turning out on this occasion ; for many a match has been won by the lung-power and enthusiasm of the partisans on the grand stand. Never has the need of such been greater than it will be on the 24th with our team playing in the enemy's territory. All up, McGill !

## Contributions.

### FOOTBALL PRACTICE AT HARVARD.

The candidates for the Harvard football eleven practice on a large tract of ground called Soldier's field. It is across the Charles river from Cambridge and is about three quarters of a mile from the main college buildings. On this field there are three football grounds marked out, one of these is fenced in and has a grand stand sufficient to accommodate ten thousand spectators, the other two are used for practice. There is also a large two-storey building with lockers, hot and cold shower baths, and a rubbing-down room. About one hundred yards from this building there is a high frame, very much like a gallows, from which is swung a tackling bag.

Every day, rain or shine, the men in the football squad must be at the locker house dressed ready to play at half-past three. Then, headed by the captain, they form in line and run to the tackling bag. Here each in turn dives at the bag just when it is swung from right to left, then left to right, then towards him and lastly away from him. The bag weighs about two hundred pounds, and has a ring like a circular life preserver, round its middle. The object of this ring is to make the men tackle low, for if they do not do so the ring prevents them grabbing the bag securely.

Again, headed by the captain, the men run in line to one of the practice fields. Here they form

up across the field and drill at starting very much as hundred yard runners do, but pairing off and facing each other. After working at this for about ten minutes the men form in line across the field to practice at falling on the ball. First the men fall on it when it is rolled from one side, then from the other, then towards them, then away from them, then when it is thrown directly at their feet. After this exercise the line men or forwards are sent to one end of the field, the back division to the other.

The work of the backs consists in kicking and catching the ball. Four of the candidates, each with his corresponding snap-back or quarter-back, stand on the goal line, the remainder of the back division candidates stand about center field to catch and return the balls. The snap-backs throw the balls to the kickers at exactly the same instant, they catch them and punt them up the field as quickly as possible. Twelve balls are kept in play so that the work is quite lively. The method is evidently intended to show how the men compare with one another in quickness of catching and kicking, and in length of kick. Two men, that are rivals for the same position, are kept at work beside each other punting as fast as the balls can be thrown at them for fully twenty minutes. Whenever a man muffs a catch he is taught to promptly fall on the ball. The whole time spent at this practice is about forty