

THE FOOT-BALL SEASON AT MCGILL.

The outlook for the College Club at the beginning of the session was anything but bright. About one-half of last year's team had graduated, and among them Mr E. H. Hamilton, who had for three years been the popular and energetic captain of the team, and undoubtedly the best player in it. Further, the Club was forced, by the arrangements of the lately-formed Quebec Rugby Union, to play its first match within ten days after practice began. But the committee and newly-elected captain went undauntedly to work, hunted out some new men, and drummed them and the old players up to morning practice. At the last moment the match committee were thrown into a perfect frenzy of delight by the announcement that the old captain was taking a post-graduate course, and therefore was again eligible for the team. In the draw for the cup competitions, McGill drew Bishop's College, and were ordered to play them at Lennoxville on Saturday, Oct. 11th. The following players were chosen for the match: *Back*, Hamilton E. H.; *Hamilton* W. J. *Half-back*, Brown; *Budden*. *Quarter-back*, Johnson; *Elder* (Capt.). *Forwards*, Robertson P. M.; Smith; Robertson F. D.; Kerry, Campbell, Matthewson, Holden, May, Costigan.

Matthewson unfortunately awakened up too early that Saturday morning, and consequently was taking a second nap about the time the train left, leaving the team a man short, and thus the match was played. After a most enjoyable ride, now winding among hills that were gorgeous in their autumn dews, now following the banks of some beautiful stream, Lennoxville was reached about half-past two, and all haste was made for the field of play. A most cordial reception was given the team by the Bishop's men, and the match was a very pleasant one. The result was rather a surprise to the "boys," who came out winners by a score of 50 to 0. The quickness of the forwards, especially Holden and the two Robertsons; the long and accurate kicking of the backs and half-backs, especially Brown and Hamilton, and the cool play of Johnson at the quarter, were the main features of the match. We nearly omitted to mention the bevy of fair damsels who surrounded the field, and whose presence justified an occasional "muff" on the part of some of the more susceptible members of the team. After the match the visitors were handsomely entertained in the College buildings by the Bishop's men, from whom they reluctantly parted when it was time to return to Montreal.

The next match was with the Montreals, in the final tie for the Quebec Cup, and was played here on Oct. 18th. As was anticipated, the College team was beaten by the champions, the score standing 21 points to 0. Three changes had been made on the team, Wroughton, Patton, and Lesage replacing Costigan, Matthewson and Holden, the latter having sprained his knee in practice. The game was mainly a series of scrimmages, and rough at that, and the natural result was that the solid and quick Montreal forwards carried the day against their weaker and less practised opponents. Hamilton (W. J.) had his head badly cut in the match, and a reserve man had to be put on. However, the match was

not all lost, having brought to light such a valuable man as Wroughton, who last year captained the Guelph team. He will be a "stand-by" for next year.

Further, the match also showed the men how much they needed practice, for the want of which the weather was somewhat to blame. After another week's hard practice, the team met the Britannias in a friendly match, and showed a marked improvement in condition, though they were again beaten by a score of 16 to 0, which was perhaps partly due to some of the old players being off. The match was a good one, played in a very friendly spirit—for us. Time and again did Hamilton (W. J.) by his cool play save the college goals. "Verily the youth hath an old head on his shoulders."

But the great match of the year was yet to come—the annual match with University College, Toronto. They had beaten McGill, in Toronto, for the first time, last year, and the "boys" were determined they should not do so again. Hard practice, with an occasional Faculty match, prepared the men for the long-looked for 8th Nov., and as they lined up opposite their genial opponents on that cold Saturday, one could see by the quiet, sub-acute grin on Elder's countenance that he, at least, did not mistrust his men or anticipate defeat. A new "scrimmage" man, Naismith, very ably replaced Matthewson, whose nose had been put 'off the straight' at a previous practice. The match was a splendid one—a sample of what foot-ball matches between gentlemenly teams ought to be: a little too much scrimmage, perhaps, but no disputing. The 'Varsity forwards were far superior, but their backs were not at all up to the mark, at times nearly causing Cronyn to be fined for swearing on the field. McGill soon took advantage of the weakness of their opponents' backs, by passing the ball back and kicking it over the forwards. Some beautiful drop-kicking was done by Budden and the two Hamiltons, while the wing men, notably Smith, the two Robertsons, and Holden, were on the ball all the time. Elder and Johnson did some good passing at quarter back, and all the "touch-downs" but one were converted into goals by Brown's accurate kicking, the ball being placed by Johnson. The score stood 23 points to 0 in favor of McGill. The 'Varsity men were entertained at a grand union foot-ball dinner that night at the "Hall," and were afterwards escorted to the depot, leaving none but friends among their opponents, whose hearts they had won by their courteous and manly manner while here. This closed what we can justly regard as a successful season, for it leaves McGill at the head of the list of University Foot-Ball teams, taking comparative figures for those clubs she could not meet. As regards outside clubs, it has been demonstrated that no college club is in a position to compete with them, for while they keep their players for years, college clubs must change every three or four years. The good position of the club this year is no doubt largely due (1) to the system of morning practices, especially that with the Montreal Club, thus giving an opportunity for team play; (2) to the excellence of the new men, and the greater interest taken in the game by the students; and (3) to the confidence of the forwards in their backs and half-backs.