

Athletics.

MR. SLITER ON THE BIG GAME.

Kingston, Nov. 29, '09.

(To the Editor of the Journal) :—These remarks on the recent Dominion championship game are sent you with the idea that some of your readers may care to know how the game looked to one who witnessed it with the single object of comparing Intercollegiate with the Interprovincial football.

In the first place, it should be borne in mind that while Varsity won the Intercollegiate championship, it cannot fairly be said that Queen's and McGill were out-classed; nor can anyone seriously maintain that Hamilton was much, if any, superior to Ottawa. Making due allowance for an "off-day" on the part of the Eastern men, it seems reasonable to infer that Saturday's game may be taken as a fair criterion of the class of football played in the two unions.

The result of the game was never in doubt. Varsity backs out-kicked the Ottawa men, and did much less fumbling; their running was more effective, their passing better timed, and more accurate. The lines were fairly matched while in the line of scrimmage; but in speed, following-up, and tackling, Varsity shewed marked superiority. It was noticeable, too, that when the ball got loose, it was generally secured by Varsity. Time after time Williams punts were run back for large gains, owing to the ineffective tackling of the Ottawa forwards. Ottawa's ends were circled repeatedly, no consideration whatever being shown for the reputation of her outside wings. Ottawa's backs could never get away, but were smothered by the speed and sure tackling of the Toronto forwards.

In team-work, and variety of play, the students were superior, though it should be remembered that swift and sure tackling tends to put a stop to all but straight football, while weak tackling opens the way for all kinds of spectacular plays. Still it must be said that the Toronto team worked more systematically, and gave their opponents fewer opportunities, while the Eastern men were caught napping many times, especially by short kicks and long passes. The Ottawa backs showed questionable judgment in passing behind goal, by which they seldom accomplished anything, and sometimes escaped disaster by the narrowest of margins. On one occasion, Gerard was forced to dribble out, after an inaccurate long pass which Varsity's outside right nearly intercepted.

It is with no wish to depreciate Varsity's brilliant performance that the writer expresses his conviction that Queen's, and probably McGill, would have beaten the Interprovincial champions playing as they did on Saturday.

The students of Queen's will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that Queen's representatives were shown every courtesy and received many favors from the Varsity management.—E. O. S.