

# » QUEEN'S »

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**A** CLEAR indication of an unhealthy state of college sport may be seen in the relations at present existing between Harvard and Yale Universities. It is now definitely understood that these two will not meet in any athletic contests this year, neither in football this autumn, nor in baseball and rowing next spring. As far as we have been able to interpret the situation, the whole difficulty may be traced back to that exhibition of ruffianism and brutality seen at Springfield last November. After the game certain *alumni* of Harvard gave vent to their indignation and bitterness through the medium of the press, and by so doing started a controversy. The opinions expressed were quite unofficial, but served to so aggravate Yale that, when a letter was sent by Harvard regarding arrangements for '95, she replied by demanding an official retraction of the unofficial remarks. Harvard refused, disclaiming any official responsibility for the obnoxious statements, and expressed a regret at the termination of athletic relationships.

Such a piece of child's play between two of the oldest institutions of the United States is most lamentable. Though it is a matter of sincere regret to graduates of both universities, many hail it as a blessing in disguise, inasmuch as it cools the football hysteria of the last few years. They think that rules and regulations will now be adopted which will obviate much of the brutality and coarseness

previously characteristic of the game, and thus keep it within reasonable and healthful lines.

As Canadians it ill becomes us to hold up a Pharisaic head and say, that our game knows nothing of degeneracy. It would serve us better to profit by the mistakes of our brethren across the line, and avoid all tendencies to professionalism or the perversion of a college game to other purposes than sport for sport's sake. It is the concomitants of the game which always bring it into disrepute. Any judge of physical education will admit that in itself football is a healthful, vigorous and valuable game for young men. It requires not only strength, promptness and alacrity, but even elements of mental acuteness and quickness of decision. A player must learn to meet defeat and meet it like a man; he must continually be an aggressor and yet keep himself under control. Apart, therefore, from the mere development of brawn and muscle, though this is not an unworthy consideration, the game is an excellent one and should be preserved as one of the prominent features of college life. It has and will always have some accidents and calamities, but so does every sport and occupation in life. The difference is, that those of football are published from Dan to Beersheba by sensation mongers,\* while those of such a sport as bicycling, for instance, happen on the country roadside away from the reporter's eye. Make allowance as we may, we have yet to confess that football is the occasion of a great deal of gambling and unnecessary roughness. Prevention is better than cure, and as one desirous of seeing college sport at its best we should be pleased to see measures taken to arrest the development of objectionable tendencies. Nothing will do more than the cultivation of such a spirit as made our students willing to cheer for opponents at the last championship match. We have lost the championship, it is true, but the gentlemanly, sportsmanlike character of the final contest, on both sides, is to every true college man a matter of gratification. Among professional athletes, where success means bread and butter, loss of temper and consequent ill-feeling are not unexpected, but among college men, playing a college game, they should be the last thing to occur.