

unfortunately, he did not see the catch made, and after considerable disputing on both sides gave it against us. He did not, however, "allow himself to be dictated to by the ('Varsity) umpire," as stated in the article, but gave his decision on the ground that Smith had started to run; which he averred was indicated by the two steps taken after the mark was made. I held that this should have been given in our favour, as the rule states, "a fair catch is a catch made direct from a kick—provided the catcher makes a mark with his heel at the spot where he has made the catch." (Rule 31, Ontario Rugby Union). In this instance the mark was made, and the mere fact that Smith involuntarily over-stepped the mark should not have had the effect of defeating our claim. With regard to the dispute about the calling of time at the end of the game, the statement in the article is entirely erroneous. It says, "Again our men had to suffer for the 'Varsity umpire's decision, sanctioned by the referee, which was that time had been called while Hamilton was taking his kick, and this in spite of the fact that they stated that there was one minute more when Hamilton went to take the kick, and the rule which says that time cannot be called until the ball is dead." Now, unfortunately for the truth of the statement I have just quoted, it happened that the referee had nothing whatever to do with the calling of time. As the umpires were both perfectly agreed as to when it should be called, it was quite unnecessary to ask the referee's opinion on the subject. Both the 'Varsity umpire and myself were keeping the time, and it was up shortly after the second fair catch made by Smith, and while the ball was being placed for the kick. As soon as the ball crossed the goal line, both of the umpires instantly called time, and although our men, unwilling to believe themselves defeated, rushed in and touched the ball down, it could not, of course, be counted in the game. In calling time just after the kick was made, we acted according to the rule specially made to meet a case of this kind which says, "Neither half time nor no side shall be called until the ball is fairly held or goes out of play, and in the case of a try or fair catch, the kick at goal only shall be allowed." (Rule 60, Ontario Rugby Union). As we were obliged to have a Toronto man as referee I think we were more fortunate than otherwise in getting Mr. Morphy. When his name was mentioned I at once agreed to his acting in that capacity, and with the exception of his decision on the first "fair catch," no one could take the slightest objection to his rulings. The statement made in the article that a fresh man was put on during the game, contrary to the express agreement that only the one who was playing before should play, is, I believe, perfectly true, and wholly unjustifiable on the part of the 'Varsity captain. It was certainly due to our men that all agreements between the captains should be strictly adhered to. It is also stated in your article, that the men who went off the 'Varsity team on account of being hurt, were unaccountably able to "rush around and cheer for their side," and that there is a doubt as to whether they "could in every instance tell where the sore spot was." This appears to be a slight exaggeration; I am able to state that in, at least, two cases the injuries were severe enough to prevent the players from taking further part in the match. With regard to the playing of our men, I must say that I never saw McGill play better than in the second, nor worse than in the first three-quarters of the match. Another five minutes would, I believe, have made the difference between defeat and victory, and had our men had a few lessons in "quick scrimmaging," they would have been a match, and more than a match, for their opponents. I think that it is only due to Toronto University that some of the statements in our account of the match, should not pass without comment. That we have had good grounds for complaint is true, but the charges might have been made in a more friendly spirit.

Yours truly,

FREDERICK HAGUE.

MONTREAL, Nov. 19th, 1883.

To the Editors of the MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

DEAR SIRS:—I would like through your paper to suggest to the college authorities the improvement which would be effected by having a crossing of some kind placed across the road just in

front of the Medical Building. Now that the rainy season is well commenced, the amount of mud carried thence through the Medical Building is not trifling, not to mention the discomfort when the snow has commenced to get slushy in the spring.

Another suggestion is to the editors of this paper, although probably too late for use this year it might be available next. It is that the Theological Colleges in connection with the college be represented on its staff, thus increasing its circulation and probably enabling the editors to issue once a week.

MONTREAL, Nov. 10, '83

OBSERVER.

[The suggestion of "Observer" with regard to the crossing deserves the consideration of the authorities. The other matter should be brought before the students of the University at their general meeting.—Eus.]

## Sporting News.

The Columbia College foot-ball team failed to appear at Princeton for its game with the team of that College, and has accordingly forfeited its place in the Inter-Collegiate Association.

DURING the seven years that the Rugby game has been played Harvard has never put the ball over Yale's cross bar and Princeton has only touched the ball behind Yale's goal once and secured one goal from the field.

THE Yale boat crew have adopted a new stroke called the "Cooke Stroke," which differs from the stroke of last year in being a long sweep with a slow recovery. In the former stroke, which was a short sweep with a quick recovery, the legs and back were used in a quick, jerky manner, which is now superseded by not using the legs at all, the back being kept rigid until the completion of the stroke.

THE Canadian national game is not being wholly neglected in England. The other day a team of Londoners went to Cambridge and played the University team. According to the *London Times*, the game at the end was fairly equal, but Cambridge soon asserted its superiority, and the Londoners, without gaining anything, were defeated by six goals.

At the meeting of the McGill College Hockey Club, held in the reading room on the 21st Nov., the following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. Roy; secretary-treasurer, Mr. S. Ogilvie; committee, Messrs. Craven and Kerry. Moved by Mr. H. Hamilton, that this committee be instructed to draw up a new constitution to be presented to a meeting to be held later on. Carried.

### FOOTBALL.—REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

On Saturday the 10th, the McGill team played the last match game of the season. Let us recall for a moment the five games of the five successive weeks. The first was with the Britannians on our own grounds. It was like that of last year in that our fellows were beaten; but unlike in this, that the game was played and ended, and is now looked back upon with the best of good feeling on both sides. The second was with the Montreals, for the Montreal Challenge Cup. We were all anxious to get it, and McGill played hard; the Montreals were bound to keep it, and played hard also. The Montreals had been practising steadily for six weeks, while our fellows had been in shape about two, and the better form won the day. This match was played on the Montreal ground; the ground, however, was not all ground, for some of it was water. In the second three-quarters our fellows had to defend the goal in the swamp; some not being able to swim, or else being loth to entrust themselves to the cold watery deep, they played under difficulty. Thus the game was lost by two goals.

The next was on our grounds with the Kingston Cadets. The most remarkable thing about this pleasant match, was the fine scrimmage of the Cadets, formed of seven men, with arms interlocked in the shape of a wedge. This ended in a draw in favor of McGill.

On Saturday, Nov. 3rd, was played the annual match between the teams of McGill and Toronto Universities. Except in one particular, the game was played by the rules of