

sional quiet ejaculation of encouragement, as, "In sooth," or "Now you're talking." At the close of the speech, too, would it not be better if one of us should advance and shake the speaker warmly by the hand, saying, "That was, indeed, a noble effort; your final sentence, sir, entranced me."

A FOOTBALL FORECAST.

What was probably the most successful season in the football annals of the University came to a conclusion last season with our association team, champions of Canada, and the Rugby team, not quite champions, but with an unblemished record. The success of our representatives, from start to finish, was most gratifying, and should have the effect of increasing the interest taken in the game this year, and also of firing the ambition of many modest aspirants in the paths of glory, blood and bruises.

It is well known by all experienced players that in excellence in combination play as opposed to individual display lies the great secret of success; and it must always be accounted a singular happiness in a team of players, when the motions of each individual combine harmoniously with those of the others; and when the play of both forwards and backs is radically interwoven; each being in a certain sense distinguishable, yet not liable to displays of selfishness and jealousy, but always characterized by mutual adherence and reciprocal support. This condition of things is to be attained only by diligent and regular practice and training. The practices last year were tolerably well attended and success crowned the efforts of the players. However, with a stricter attention to the preparatory work a much greater degree of excellence might be reached, followed by unprecedented results.

In considering the prospects of the ensuing season on the Rugby field, it gives us great satisfaction to note, first, the favourable arrangement of the Ontario ties; and, secondly, the return of a large proportion of the luminaries who made themselves famous last year. Varsity drew a bye in both the first and second rounds of the series, and plays the winner of the Queen's-Ottawa match in the third round on the 25th either at Kingston or Ottawa.

Owing to the small number of college teams in the union this year no college series is to be played. It is still rather early to speculate regarding the probable winners. Queen's is said to be rather weaker than last year and the result of their match with Ottawa is very uncertain. Stratford and London are unknown quantities, while Toronto and Hamilton are quite as strong as formerly. The absence from the series of Trinity and Ottawa Colleges makes the issue very doubtful. The second fifteen is entered for the Junior Series and is drawn to play the Toronto second on the 18th. The Petrolia and Ontario clubs play on the same day, and the finals, both Junior and Senior, will be arranged by the Executive at the conclusion of the series. The annual match with Toronto will be played on the Rosedale Grounds on the 18th, and other fixtures are being arranged. Varsity owes McGill, Queen's and the Royal Military College a match each, but it will be impossible to square up the whole account this year.

The composition of the team will be largely the same as last year. McQuarrie has not turned up yet, but will probably be on hand to play the solitary full back. The three halves, Senkler, Thomson and Bunting, are ready for work, as is also McClean at quarter. Among the wings and forwards, Moss, Symmes, Hutchins, McKay and Boulton, have already been out practicing and are getting into condition. Pope and Lucas are on hand and will don their jerseys at the earliest opportunity. McLaren, Moran and McLaughlin, will be back this week ready for active service. Two of the most brilliant ornaments of last year's fifteen, Cross, B.A., LL.B., and Watt, M.D., have left us and cannot be replaced. A brace of freshmen

from Upper Canada, whose names it would be indecorous in us to mention, will probably be of some consequence. Besides these there are many other more or less shining lights, whose merits we will not detail. Our Second promises to be unusually strong and will probably add its quota of victories to what ought to be a long list in the annals of the Rugby Club.

THE ASSOCIATION TEAM.

With the inspiration of last year's most encouraging triumph, and a desire to sustain that reputation, the representatives of old Varsity in the Toronto League and Western Association ought to make a good showing this season. Nobody can form an accurate opinion of what Varsity will do in football until one day Varsity does it, and then everybody is surprised. This was the case last year especially, our team being an almost entirely unknown quantity, but the men were after the championship, and they captured it. Their aim is the same this year, and the question is, will they attain it?

The season will be a busy one. We will have two teams in the field, one in the Toronto League, and one in the Toronto Association. Will it be possible to take the first place in both organizations? The League season opened last Saturday and will end on the 25th inst. Varsity's first match will be with the Scots, the present champions, next Saturday afternoon on the Scots' grounds. This will be perhaps the most important match in the series, as there will be such a short time to practice, and the Scots will have the advantage of being on their own grounds, which, by the way, are entirely unfit for football.

There will be three other matches, all on the lawn, the last one being with Osgoode Hall, on Saturday, the 25th inst. This means that four matches will be played in a space of two weeks. Should fortune benignantly vouchsafe the championship to the blue and white, there will still be two matches with the champions of the West and a probable one with the Eastern Association. This will necessitate one trip to the West, but the Eastern men will come here. Wouldn't a trip to Montreal be a good one for the team's yearly outing?

The second eleven have, we believe, a good chance for the championship in the Association. The first scheduled match is next Saturday, when our men will face the Scottish Strollers. The latter have the choice of grounds, but it is likely that they will be obliged to play the game on the lawn. Five matches have to be played, the last one on November the 9th, five weeks from the opening of the season. Most assiduous practice will be the only thing that will give either team a good position, and THE VARSITY urges the men to be out every night and get into good trim for the heavy work.

The *personnel* of the teams has not yet been decided, but this must be done almost immediately in anticipation of the two important matches on Saturday. A large number of the old players are already in College, and most of them are enthusiastic on the subject. Hugh Fraser is going to help in training the team, and under his eye the old players will be improved and the new ones developed as they should be. Watty Thomson was elected Captain last Spring, but we understand that he is desirous of giving up the game this year. It will be difficult to fill his position though there are several aspirants for the place. Ivan Senkler will be in his old place between the flags in most of the matches. The Rugby matches may interfere somewhat though. There is a Freshman medical who plays a good game in goal, and he may be used. Then there are Blake, Edgar and Breckinridge, who have played on the team before, besides one or two others, who, if necessary, could fill a gap. The half-back line is in an unsettled state. Forrester, who played last year for the Legals, will help his College this year. Goldie will, we regret to say, not be in College to take his play at centre half. Lockhart has not shown up yet, but will likely be here in time for the first match. On the forward line the wings will be