Foot-Ball in Negro Colleges.

By Dwight O. W. Holmes, '01.

The beginning of the twentieth century witnesses a decided triumph for the athlete in the field of education. It is now generally agreed that the Greek theory of education was correct in at least one point, namely, that a harmonious development of body and mind is desirable in order that the finished product may be of the greatest service to the world. Indeed there are to-day but few thinking people who can conceive of a progressive college without its athletic department.

Just as athletics in general have gained a permanent place in the scheme of college education, so has foot-ball gained popular recognition as the feature par excellence of college athletics. Despite the adverse criticisms of the game which have frequently been heard in recent years, it has won its way into the hearts of the American people and has become permanently enshrined. By persistent efforts on the part of the promoters of the game the objectionable features have gradually been eliminated, so that there are left but few grounds for complaint even from the most bitter antagonists of the game. In short the arguments in its favor so overwhelm those against it that the old cry of "Foot-ball should be abolished" is now never heard except from the lips of some extreme sentimentalist.

Since, then, foot-ball has been permanently installed as a necessary adjunct to American college life, what is more natural than it should be gaining favor among Negro colleges? for the race has always proven itself not only willing but eager to fall into line with any advance in this progressive civilization. It naturally follows that whatever has been proven beneficial to students in white colleges is considered worthy of at least a fair trial by Negro college men. Acting upon this principle the students in the various institutions of learning for Negroes have tried foot-ball and have found it worthy of all attention, encouragement and praise which have been bestowed upon it. And now the game is as popular among the Negro colleges as elsewhere and is pursued just as enthusiastically in spite of the many disadvantages against which its promoters must work.

And right here we must say a word in explanation of the disadvantages just mentioned, hoping that it may be seriously considered by those who chance to read this—and may it be as seed sown in good ground.

Generally speaking, Negro students possess in a marked degree all necessary requisites for the making of good athletes. Brains, pluck, endurance, enthusiasm, etc., can be found in abundance; but one great element so essential to the accomplishment of most things earthly, and yet in this case so scarce, is finance. To the lack of this all-important factor nearly all our athletic troubles can be traced.

In the first place many students who would gladly give their physical support to athletics are compelled to use their spare time in supporting themselves in college. This of course, curtails the resources of the team to a very great extent. There is no immediate remedy for this and it will disappear only when the financial condition is improved. It is mentioned in this connection however, because it affects the teams in Negro colleges more seriously than those elsewhere and without this consideration no just comparison can be made.

Nor is this condition of distress confined to the individual students. If it were, we should have little ground for complaint. But it is shared by our college athletic associations and extends even to the institutions themselves. The results of this are deplorable indeed and a brief mention of them may go far to account for many of our shortcomings in our athletic endeavors.

At present but few of the Negro colleges can boast of a properly equipped gymnasium, the lack of which is a serious handicap to athletic progress. Without such facilities, adequate physical training, so necessary to proficiency and safety in out-of-door sports is well nigh impossible, while lighter indoor work is entirely out of the question. Then too a properly conducted training table supported from athletic funds is something which is practically unknown among us; as a result the members of the teams indulge in injudicious diet at will, thus losing one of the most important and most desirable features of the whole scheme. A salaried trainer to look out for the physical welfare of the men is an untried luxury and a paid coach an impossibility.

It must also be said in this connection that this scarcity of funds is the main reason why no intercollegiate association exists among the Negro schools and still further why the number of games between them is so small. The travelling expenses for a foot-ball team of twenty men for distances over a hundred miles are usually greater than the receipts from the games; consequently there must be a loss on all games played with teams coming from that distance. The location of our
colleges is such that this distance separates them in nearly every case. The result is that our schedule consists of one or two games with colleges, while the rest of the season is filled out as best it may be.

These facts have been mentioned, not for the purpose of displaying the dark side of the question, but because we believe that the public should know the condition of athletic affairs as they exist in our institutions of learning. The public expects us to attain great ends but largely fails to supply its share of necessary means. College athletics generally are supported by public patronage. Negro college athletics must be supported by the Negro public. The race generally and even the alumni of the various colleges need to be awakened to a sense of their duty in supporting the athletic side of college life. When the public rallies to our support and we can count on large receipts from our games then will the chief obstacle to our progress be removed and then we may reasonably expect creditable representation in the foot-ball world. It is often asked why no Negro foot-ball team has been able to gain such distinction as has the Indian team from Carlisle. It is hoped that the above remarks will partially answer such questions.

There is indeed a very bright side to this question which should not be forgotten. The remarkable tenacity, enthusiasm and spirit of sacrifice which our students have evinced in spite of trials and difficulties are surely an encouraging sign for the future as they account for the remarkable progress in the past. Starting with one team in 1890 the game has grown in the Negro colleges until the past season when nearly every one was represented on the gridiron.

The quality of the teams also has improved in proportion to the increase in numbers. Each season leaves its legacy of experience and material to its successor, so that each year sees a better team than the one before. As the popularity of the game grows greater the number of converts to the cause among the students is increased. The result of this is an increase in the number of candidates and a corresponding improvement in the quality of the team. Then too at several of our colleges there are members of the faculty who have had good training in the game themselves and who for the sake of the athletic side of college life willingly spend much of their time during the foot-ball season in coaching the team. This kind of training is of inestimable value to the team and in a large measure accounts for the knowledge of the finer points of the game which several of the Negro college teams possess, and of which they frequently give evidence much to the surprise of those who attend our games expecting to see a farce comedy enacted.

The Negro college teams have never been rated according to strength because of the difficulty in finding a just basis of comparison; nor can they be until conditions are such that more of them can be brought together. Comparative scores, misleading at best, are in this case impossible because the teams play in different circles which they never leave. The best team in each particu
over many; some were absolutely hopeless of victory, but those who have been around the University for some time, feared not, for they knew the “Howard spirit,” what it can, and will do, when once aroused. So, V. N. and I. I., just as Morgan only a few days before, baffled, outgeneraled, and disgracefully defeated by a score of 26 to 0, skulked home to Petersburg to bury her sorrows among the clay hills of the old historic Appomattox.

Now having in this brief manner summed up the work of the ‘Varsity, I shall in conclusion make a few remarks concerning the work of the Reserves.

The next day after the team was organized, it defeated the Armstrong Manual Training School of this city by a score of 10 to 5, Armstrong scoring on a fluke. Two weeks later they defeated the M Street High School by a score of 16 to 0, in one twenty and one twenty-five minute halves.

Many believe (myself among them) that the Reserves could have defeated either Morgan College or V. N. and I. I. The hardest games the ‘Varsity had this season were played in daily practice with the scrubs. Some days it was with the toughest kind of foot ball and the shrewdest kind of generalship that the ‘Varsity was able to squeeze out one touch down in ten or fifteen minutes of play, while the scrubs, on the other hand, were scarcely ever thrown for a lost, as would be expected. One day they secured the ball on their ten yard line from a kick-off and ran the entire length of the field through the whole ‘Varsity team for a touchdown.

THE LINE UP.

‘VARSITY

Bailey, Roberts .................. R. R. Geary, Young
Hayton, Sanford ................ R. T. Brown
Moore, Hayton .................. R. G. Harris, Nelson
McClellan, Moore ............... C. Watson, Miller
Clarke, Holmes ................. L. G. Durrah
Washington, cap, Williams ...... L. T. Steel
Shorter .................. L. E. Brown, Atwood
Davis, Banks .................. R. H. Bandy
Bounds, Carroll ................. L. H. Cook, cap, Fleming
Browneley, Anser .............. Q. Coffee, Jr.
Morton, Davis ................. F. Haut, Winkler

RESERVES

A TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHERN MISSIONARIES.

BY PROF. KELLY MILLER.

“When the war drum throbbed no longer,” and the cessation of strife proclaimed the end of the great American conflict, there emerged from the wreck and ruins of war four millions of human beings, who were transformed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from chattel into men.

These people were ignorant and degraded. They had not been permitted to taste of the tree of knowledge which had been zealously guarded by the flaming sword of wrath, kept keen and bright by cupidity and greed. The world looked and wondered. What was to be the destiny of these people? But as soon as they were touched by the magic wand of education, order began to rise out of chaos. No where, in all the sweep of history, has the transforming effect of education sustained a higher test of its power.

The circumstances amid which this work had its inception read like the swift-changing scenes of a mighty drama. The armies of the north are in sight of victory; Lincoln issued his immortal emancipation proclamation; Sherman, with consumate military skill destroys the Confederate base of supplies and marches through Georgia triumphant to the sea; Grant is on his way to Richmond; the Confederate flag has fallen; Lee has surrendered; the whole north join in one concerted chorus: “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.” These thrilling episodes will stir our patriotic emotions to the latest generations. But in the track of the Northern army there followed a band of heroes to do battle in a worthier cause. Theirs was no carnal warfare. They did not battle against flesh and blood, but against the powers of darkness intrenched in the ignorance of a degraded people. A worthier band has never furnished theme or song for sage or bard. These noble women—for those noble people were mostly of the female sex—left homes, their friends, their social ties, and all that they held dear, to go to the far south to labor among the recently emancipated slaves.

Their courage, their self-sacrificing devotion, sincerity of purpose and purity of motive, and their unshaken faith in God and in man, were their pass keys to the hearts of those for whom they came to labor. They were sustained by an unbounded enthusiasm and zeal amounting almost to fanaticism. No mecenary or sordid motive attaches to their fair names. They gave the highest proof that the nineteenth century, at least, has afforded that Christianity has not yet degenerated into a dead and barren formulism, but that it is a living, vital, uplifting power.

Out of the abundance of their faith and zeal, they founded colleges and universities, and gave impulse and direction to the better life of a whole race. Their works do follow them. What colored man is there in all this land who has not felt the uplifting effect of their labors? Their monument is builded in the hope of a race struggling upward from ignorance to enlightenment, from corruption to purity of life.

These are they who sowed the seed of intelligence in the soil of ignorance and planted the rose of virtue in the garden of dishonor and shame.

It is said that gratitude is the fairest flower which sheds its perfume in the human heart. As long as the human heart beats in grateful response to benefits received, those angels of mercy and of light shall not want a monument of living ebony and bronze.

Mr. J. Francis Carroll, of the Senior College class, was suddenly called home by the death of his mother. The Journal shares with Mr. Carroll his grief in the loss of such a near and dear friend.
An Interview With Dr. Norwood.

The University Journal reporter, calling on Dr. J. C. Norwood, was granted an interview:

"Doctor, did you take an active part in the Alumni Association, when there was such an organization?"

"Yes, years ago there were separate Alumni Associations—of the College, Law and Medical departments; and there was a union Alumni of all the departments."

"Do you remember what caused the members to lose interest in the organization, when it existed?"

"I think it is a racial trouble. Men go in for organization quick enough; but they won't keep up. We of the Medical Department held an Alumni meeting in May. Then we were to hold another meeting in September, but that meeting did not materialize. I think it was due to general apathy. I've been engaged in Alumni work for the last twenty years, and I find that there are a faithful few just as in every thing else."

"Do you recall the occasion that brought about the discontinuance of the United Alumni?"

"Well, I don't know; but as far as I remember, there grew up a disagreement between College and Professional men, all on account of petty jealousies. The College men felt that because some men in the Professional schools had not finished college, they ought not be accorded the same privileges as college men."

"Yes, Doctor, the Journal recognizes that fact, and its prime motive is to eradicate all these disagreeable failings and make all graduates feel that they are the offspring of one Alma Mater."

"That will be a good thing; for the Alumni when organized did some very efficient work. It was due to our efforts that Prof. Kelly Miller was given the chair in mathematics. Although Dr. Patton insisted that there was no appropriation, we, the Alumni, made up the deficiency, in order that a graduate of Howard might have the place. It was due to a resolution which I fathered, in a meeting of the Medical Alumni, that such proficient doctors as Doctors Shadd, West and Mitchell, all graduates of Howard, secured positions in the Medical School. And the Alumni Association is responsible for the increase in the number of years in the course and many improvements which the students now enjoy. I mention these things that you may see the good that may be derived from the organization."

"It has been rumored among some of the students that, every one at some time has been made to feel, that his attendance at the University was not at all essential, and that men were so glad to get away they never troubled themselves about returning. Do you agree with that view, Doctor?"

"No indeed! I think the discontinuance of the organization is wholly due to petty jealousy and general apathy."

"Doctor, you know there are a few things carried
I think neither. You see, men get out in the world and are so engrossed in their fight for sustenance or supremacy that they are unable to respond. I know the graduates do not forget the University, for I’ve met them in Philadelphia, New York, Boston and St. Louis, and they all feel proud of the fact that they are Howard men.

Knowing that you were one of the earlier graduates of the University, the Journal was very anxious to have your views on the subject of Alumni reorganization. And, too, the Journal intends to agitate the question until it has effected organizations where there are enough graduates to form an organization.

Yes, it is all due to bigotry on the part of some. When those petty jealousies are abolished, we ought to come together and form a strong organization. Of course I know it will be expected of me, having spoken as I have, to do my share, which I am quite willing to do.

It is true my time is limited, but I am ready to lend my assistance. Our separation weakens what would otherwise be a very strong organization. Now, to show you what has happened in an association which was organized in 1885, by Drs. Lamb, Reyburn, Cook, Agustus, Francis, Purvis, Martin, Dr. Parsons, and me; we founded the organization, held two or three meetings, and at one of them appointed a committee on Constitution. This committee brought in a constitution, to which I could not subscribe. They produced a law that operated against me for working in the service of the government, but did not affect others holding positions in the Hospital, Medical School, and engaged in all sorts of business. The law only entitled me to partial membership. Being unwilling to subscribe myself inferior to the majority, I could not accept that membership. These little injustices are the things to be guarded against in an organization. Put them aside, and we may come together in one grand, glorious effort and form the chain that shall link together forever every one who claims Howard as his Alma Mater.

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Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute Defeated by a Score of 26 to 0.

If the great throng of spectators who turned out Thanksgiving day expected to witness a closely contested game between Howard and V. N. I. I., the greatest disappointment awaited them. It was an ideal day for football and the University Campus presented one of the most animated scenes recorded in its history. Long before either eleven made its appearance upon the gridiron, the wildest enthusiasm prevailed on the part of the lovers of the manly sport. Although the White and Blue were in majority, yet Petersburg’s colors could be seen here and there in the crowd worn by anxious and hopeful sympathizers. At ten minutes of three the visitors came upon the field, receiving a hearty welcome from the crowd. Five minutes later when the Howard squad, led by Capt. Washington, came romping up the gravel walk from Clark Hall, deafening shouts rent the air, flags and ribbons fluttered in the breeze, while the University Band played popular airs of the white blue.

After a few minutes had been spent by both teams in signal practice, they lined up. V. N. I. I. having won the toss defended the south goal which gave her the advantage of a slight wind. But if there were any doubts as to which team would win they were soon removed for it was by no means a stubborn contest. There were no moments, such as when victory or defeat hangs by a thread. Although Howard had one of the lightest teams in her football history her speed and team work were mistifying to her opponents. Barnes and Davis, Howard’s powerful backs, tore through V. N. I. I.’s. line repeatedly for long gains. But if they were unable to stop line plunges they were equally unable to advance the ball, for with their strongest offensive formations they were unable to penetrate Howard’s well-knit line. Capt. Washington undoubtedly proved himself a natural leader. He was in every scrimmage, urging and encouraging his warriors. In the tackle-back formation which proved so irresistible, his magnificent form ploughed through Petersburg’s line for many yards.

Bailey stood out conspicuously. His long runs around end which gave him a reputation early in the game, made him a favorite.

Brownley demonstrated his ability as a quarterback. Although he did not come up to his standard in goal-kicking, the way he generated the plays was bewildering to the Virginians. Cool, observant, quick to measure the weakness of his opponents, his generalship is equalized only by that of the great and wonderful Dwight.

Shorter’s work was as spectacular as ever. His end skirting for long runs were features of the game. Morton had little need for punting but his work behind the line was highly commendable.

Lomax the big back put up a fine game for the visitors. Getting through the line in the second half he went...
galloping down the field but his goal seeking tour was stopped by Morton who scattered his big form over mother earth. Franklin also did some brilliant work for his team and was very annoying to Moore, Howard's big Sandow. Sloan played a star game and won for himself many admirers.

Among the other Howard men who deserve mention, are McCellan, Bayton, Moore and Clarke, whose work on the line was quite praiseworthy. Banks, Roberts and Auter, who were put in the second half played their usual good game.

The game was clean and decisive and no one who witnessed it will doubt that Howard deserves the intercollegiate championship.

The University Band Concert.

The concert given by the University Band in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Friday, December 4, 1903, will go down in history, among Howard students, as one of the most interesting events of the year. From a musical standpoint the concert was a complete success. The ease with which the members of the band played their parts and the manner in which the programme was rendered, received the highest praise and commendation from the patrons of the entertainment.

Little did the members of the student body and friends think that they would be given such a rare musical treat. What the Band did in five weeks is enough to prove to all concerned that we have much to hope for from our band, of which we are all proud.

All numbers rendered by the band received hearty and enthusiastic applause from the friends present.

The band was assisted by the following talent: Mrs. Robert Pelham, the noted pianist, who rendered the selections of S. Coleridge Taylor's song, and "Moonlight Sonata," with her usual ease and gracefulness; Mrs. Pelham is always welcome among us. The vocal selection by Mrs. M. Wilson Smoot was received with great applause. Miss A. B. Carrington in her rendition of "Violets" and a selected number, also pleased the audience. The Mandolin solo by Mr. S. B. Hughes, a member of the band, showed skill and was received with loud applause. The "Tiny Star," a clarionet solo by Mr. Lawrence, a clarionet soloist of rare ability, was so well received by the audience that he had to repeat it. We cannot close this article without referring to Mr. B. H. Baker, the leader of the band, who proved himself, to possess the power and ability to give us a band which will demand the respect of all. The energetic manager, Mr. A. E. Beatty, deserves credit for the effort he has put forth in making the band a success. We wish to urge the members of the band to follow their leader, and continue the good work.

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