The Past and Present of the Football Game

NOCYCLOPEDIISTS admit that they do not know the origin of the football game. They agree, however, that the Greeks and Romans played a game that required the kicking of a ball in compliance with certain stipulated rules.

While the origin of the game is not definitely known, it is generally conceded that full credit is due England for its development. This was accomplished in the face of opposition that was bitter, persistent, and long continued. The first authentic account of football in England is given by William Fitzstephen, 1175, in his "History of London." Then the game was indulged in mainly by the masses. It was their favorite sport. From the twelfth to the nineteenth century, many repressive measures were passed by Parliament to prohibit the game. Several excuses were given. In 1314, Edward II forbade it on the ground that it caused too much noise in London. Edward III prohibited the game because it seemed to be one of the pastimes that were responsible for the decadence of archery. During the reigns of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth, stringent laws were enacted against football, because it was considered too brutal.

The Honor System

THE approach of the mid-year examinations brings forward the consideration of a student reform which has been developing strong and favorable sentiment at Howard. That reform is the honor system. For several years, the feasibility of the movement has been discussed among an increasing number of students until at the present time the idea seems to have a following large enough to warrant a trial.

Everyone knows that there is some dishonesty in the examinations at Howard every year. Some years and in some classes the opportunities have been greater than in others, and the number of those who have yielded to the temptations has fluctuated accordingly. We do not attempt to excuse these lapses, though it is often said that to set a watch over a person is to suggest to him that he should justify your surveillance. If the pressure, which causes students to yield to these temptations, is human nature, as is sometimes stated, then it is distorted human nature which is prone to follow the line of least resistance and confuse temporary advantage with permanent benefit. Whatever may be the reasons, we are desirous of being granted opportunity to try the system which...
has freed, practically the University of Virginia, Williams, Bowdoin, Princeton, Yale, and other leading institutions of this besetting evil, and promoted a stronger band of fellowship between faculty and students.

The honor system which we want is not a system which will be operative during examinations only, but one which will permeate all of our departments and elevate the moral tone of the university. We want an honor system which will reach our athletics as well as our class rooms, our dormitories as well as our campus. We want the atmosphere at Howard so free from contamination and so invigorating to moral life and development that the term, "a Howard man" will come to mean the country over, "an honor man."

—C. C. Johnson, '19.

The Past and Present of the Football Game

(Continued from Page 1)

This English sport was introduced into America during the early days of New England. In these states Thanksgiving Day was celebrated, for many years, by adults who were accustomed to kicking an inflated pig's bladder about the yard of their houses. From 1840 to 1860, there was an annual football contest between the Freshmen and Sophomore classes in Yale. In 1870, D. S. Shaff introduced the Rugby game at Yale. Other institutions soon began to turn their attention to football. In 1873, Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers, and Yale in convention assembled at New York City, adopted a set of rules for intercollegiate contests. In accordance with these rules, Harvard and Yale met on the "gridiron" for the first time in 1875. As in England, football in the United States soon encountered bitter opposition. Even President Emeritus of Harvard, C. W. Eliot, and President Nicholas Butler of Columbia are on record as having censured the game, maintaining that it is brutal and demoralizing to players and spectators, and extremely dangerous. Since the rules for this game have been reformed and competent referees and umpires provided, it has won not only the confidence of administrators, but also the confidence of the general public; so today it is undoubtedly the most popular sport among American institutions.

Since football is an all-round developing exercise that actually develops in students strength, endurance, quick perception and rapid decision, it has the sanction of the authorities of Howard University. Hence in athletics, as well as in scholastic training, Howard strives incessantly to give to her students opportunities equivalent to those enjoyed by students of the great English and American Universities.

—Uziah Miner, Col. '18.

Social

On Tuesday evening, December 26, the Sophomore class of the Medical College was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Just at their home in 412 T St., N. W. A very enjoyable evening was spent with our renowned and beloved professor. The class highly appreciates the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Just and wishes them a most prosperous and happy New Year. Ralph J. Young.

The dance given by the young ladies of Miner Hall Tuesday evening, January 2, for the young men of Howard University was delightful. The young men appreciate it extremely and thank the young ladies many times.

The "At Homes" of the fraternities on New Year's Day were enjoyed by all. The students and friends delight in visiting the Chapter houses of the fraternities.

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Pianoforte Recital

During the latter part of December, 1916, the College Alumnae Club presented Prof. Roy W. Tibbs of our own Conservatory of Music in a pianoforte recital, in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. In spite of the inclement weather, a representative and thoroughly appreciative audience greeted Prof. Tibbs, who rendered a most delightful program in his own artistic manner. Intense interest was manifested on the part of every member of the audience from the playing of the first movement of the Sonata to the last note of the Scherzo. Besides the magnificent final movement of the Sonata, the Liszt number and the Campbell-Tipton’s “Night” evoked the greatest applause. All loyal Howardites are justly proud of the musical achievements of this member of the University Faculty.

The piano, a Mason-Hamlin concert grand, seemed perfect in tone-quality and was a fitting instrument for the display of the artist’s skill. His program follows:

1. Beethoven Sonata Op. 57
   Allegro assai
   Andante con moto
   Allegro, ma non troppo
2. Rameau, Godowsky Tambourin
   Chopin Nocturne Op. 48, No. 1
   Liszt St. Francis’ Sermon to the Birds
   Debussy Prelude in A Minor
3. Cambell-Tipton Morning
   Cambell-Tipton Night
   Balakirew Scherzo

The recital was given for the benefit of the Social Settlement in southwest Washington, Prof. Tibbs volunteering his services for this very worthy cause. It is to be hoped that more of our young men and women may be encouraged to make similar contribution of their talents for charitable purposes.

Rev. F. F. Martin at Chapel

An example of an efficient Negro orator was given to the student body during the chapel exercises, Wednesday, January 10, when Rev. F. F. Martin, Ph. D. of Martinsburg, W. Va., delivered a very enthusiastic and inspiring address on the “Unity and Equality of the Races.”

Rev. Martin’s appearance at Chapel was somewhat unexpected. He had addressed the Bethel Literary and Historical Society on the same topic Tuesday night. His masterful treatment of the subject made such a profound impression on Dean Cook that the latter invited him to repeat the address before the Howard students.

When it was learned that Dr. Martin had been invited to the University, there immediately arose the question: “Who is he?” This question was answered by President Newman, who, in introducing the speaker said that Dr. Martin holds the Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University, the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Chicago University.

The orator showed himself to be a man, not only of eloquence, but of great learning. Almost every field of human knowledge was explored in his brief address. History, Literature, Science and Philosophy were all given scholarly treatment in the orator’s argument to prove that the Negro race is a part of the human family and equal to the white or any other race of people.

The orator was optimistic on the race problem in the United States. He said that he has great faith in this country. He assured the student body that America, founded as she is, upon principles that are just and right, will some day awake to her senses, and believe with Robert Burns, that a “Man is a man for a’ that,” regardless of his race or color.

Reverend Martin has accepted President N. O. Goodloe’s invitation to address the Howard College Chapter of the N. A. C. P. The date and subject will be announced in the near future.

—even When You Lose, Smile
Did you fall in the race? Did you faint in the spurt
Where the hot dust choked and burned?
Did you breathe the tape amidst the flying dirt
That the leader’s spikes had spurned?
Did you do your best? Oh, I know you lost.
I know that your time was bad.
The best of it since the beginning, lad,
The best of it since the beginning lad,
Is in taking your licking and grinning, lad,
If you gave them the best you had.
Did your tackle fall short? Did the runner flash by
With the score than won the game?
Did it break your heart when you missed the try?
Did you choke with the hurt and shame?
If you did your best—Oh, I know the score
I followed you all the way through;
And that is why I am saying, lad,
The best of the fight is the staying, lad,
And the best of all games is the playing, lad.
If you give them the best in you.
—Thel Bits

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Examinations

¶ The examinations for the first semester will soon be upon us. Many of us are ready for them at this time; others of us are wholly unprepared. The fact that the examinations will be finished in the short space of a week, from January 29 to February 3, makes the misfortune of unpreparedness all the worse. In previous years we have had spare hours, and even days during the examinations in which we could refresh our memories on some subject. Now that time has become more valuable at Howard, for which we are glad, it behooves us to set out in making immediate preparations. If we have thoroughly prepared ourselves throughout the semester, there is no reason for being alarmed. But in order to reinforce our confidence it would be prudent for us to spend some time in extensive and intensive review.

When we do this there is no temptation for us to cheat during the examinations. We can enter the examinations free from all unfair intentions and without the burden of a stealing conscience. Those clandestine papers that we sometimes unconsciously put into our pockets for the purpose of use only in dire circumstance can be relegated to the waste basket by the process of a timely review.

Let us endeavor to enter these examinations well prepared for honest work, and let us leave them with open face and a clear conscience. Every one should put himself into a position free from all suspicion of “class robbery.” We hope that the faculty will have no occasion to contest any papers, or to bring anyone to trial for dishonesty. Regardless of our conditions for successful cheating, let us remember that “Honesty is always the best policy;” let us not partake of aid from those about us, or give aid to them. Both are equally dishonest and both lead to destruction.

The New Year

¶ The old year has taken its stand in the realms of its predecessors. The New Year is here. The favors and ills of the year 1916 will have much influence upon the record of the present year. Some people have brought the misfortunes of 1916 into the year of 1917; others have brought fortune and prosperity. These items of disadvantage and advantage will largely determine the destiny of the year, and will accordingly benefit or harm our lives.

There is scarcely a person, however, whose career during the previous year has been exactly what he desired. We all realize the necessity of improvement and know that something is lacking. We should strive to improve ourselves by self study, and thereby improve others. We can do this by being as kind to ourselves as possible; by doing nothing that is detrimental to our mental, physical, or spiritual self. In this way we can give to society a well-developed “self” worthy of being a part of humanity. Surely, if we treat ourselves kindly we shall not violate that “Golden Rule” which requests us to be equally as kind to others. We do not encourage any one to burden himself with a load of resolutions which he knows he will not observe. Such resolutions usually are ephemeral and useless. We do urge, however, each student, each member of the alumni, and every one of the faculty to be kind to himself. Each of us should enliven our career by rendering a better and a more comprehensive service to humanity.

We hope that every one will launch out upon this most pleasant task of setting oneself right, and making one’s life better. May the blessings of Heaven be upon us all, while we make this a prosperous, useful new year.
Campus Dots

By I. C. Owl

Found: The eighth wonder of the world, Caesar’s hair cut.

Booker’s golden voice won a gold safety razor for him. The philanthropist is an inmate of Miner Hall.

It took Reese one year to learn that giving a piece of jewelry to each of his table mates made a very expensive Xmas.

“Ambassador” Brice was a sensation in the post-season football game at Annapolis on Xmas day. His fee was car fare.

For lessons in modern dances, see J. Hunter Brooks, Medical ’20. He makes no prices for ladies and refuses to instruct young men.

The indigestible meat of Miner Hall has combined with some indigestible bread over there and now we have indigestible “meat pie!” how awful!

A certain young man in Clark Hall received enough meat from home Xmas to open up a restaurant; there were four chickens, two ducks, one turkey, and a pig.

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A member of the class of Economics asked the following question: “Do you think that marriage licenses will cost more on account of the high cost of loving?”

New Year’s Resolve
By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

As the dead year is clasped by a dead December,
So let your dead sins with your dead days lie.
A new life is yours, and a new hope! Remember
We build our own ladders to climb to the sky.
Stand out in the sunlight of promise, forgetting
Whatever your past held of sorrow or wrong;
We waste half our strength in a useless regretting;
We sit by old tombs in the dark too long.

Have you missed in your aim? Well the mark is still shining.
Did you faint in the race? Well, take breath for the next.
Did the clouds drive you back? But see yonder their lining.
Were you tempted, and fell? Let it serve for a text.
As each year hurries by, let it join that procession
Of skeleton shapes that march down to the past.
While you take your place in the line of progression,
With your eyes on the heavens, your face to the blast.
I tell you the future can hold no terrors
For my sad soul while the stars revolve.
If he will but stand firm on the grave of his errors,
And, instead of regretting, resolve, resolve!
It is never too late to begin rebuilding,
Though all into ruins your life seems hurled.
For lo! how the light of the New Year is gilding,
The worn, wan face of the bruised old world!

Alumni Notes

Miss Lucy B. Carey, ’01 (Teachers), is teaching at Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Dr. Peter M. Murray, ’14 (Medical), is practicing in Washington, D. C.

Mr. John R. Hawkins, ’15 (Law), is General Secretary of the A. M. E. Church, with an office in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Elmore C. Wiggins, ’16 (Medical), is an intern in the Freedmen’s Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Mr. William H. Harper, ’14 (Arts and Sciences), is a Junior in the Howard Medical College.

Dr. William E. Ingram, ’16 (Dental School), is practicing in Detroit, Mich.

Mosby B. McAden, ’16 (Teachers), is principal of the Seaford Colored School, Seaford, Delaware.

Mr. Robert S. Chase, ’16 (Arts and Sciences), is teaching at Middletown, Delaware.

Mr. Robert Neal, ’16 (Arts and Sciences), is commissary steward for the Erie Railroad Company.

Miss Pearl M. Adams, ’16 (Arts and Sciences), is studying at the Posse Gymnasium School, Boston, Mass.

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ATHLETICS

-Thos. A. Lemon, Editor

The Basket Ball Situation among the Girls

Among the girls of Howard, there are two distinct and separate basket-ball squads, each having its own manager and its own regulations. One is the College team, of which Miss Hill is the manager; and the other is the "Prep" team of which Miss Davis is the manager.

These two teams are facing a very grave problem. Manager Hill states that she has received challenges from various colleges, but has been unable to give a definite answer because the young ladies are prohibited from playing against a College whose distance necessitates their remaining over night. This restriction limits the radius of the girls' activities to Baltimore. Such a condition is very unfortunate, because, besides making it impossible for the girls to play more than four games a season, it tends to create a feeling that the girls in College here are unable to care of themselves when outside the College limits. The girls of Howard are strong, forceful, and determined, and no one need have any fear for them when they leave the campus.

In addition to this, the trips to foreign territory mean that a competent chaperon will be constantly in attendance, and will lend more dignity to the appearance of things. While a chaperon is unnecessary from one point of view, still her presence should serve as a satisfaction to the faculty.

The girls should be given greater liberty and wider bounds in their athletic activities. They are a vital part of the Institution, and success in their contests is just as important as in other contests. But they cannot be expected to bring fame to the institution unless they participate in outside contests. Therefore, to build up a greater interest in athletics among the girls, and to bring more fame to Howard by their decisive victories, the girls should be allowed to play at other colleges, whether they could return the same day or not.

Miss Davis, manager of the "Prep" basket-ball team, reports that her Five are doing well. With Miss Lawrence in forward, and Miss Murphy in center, she feels certain of a powerful machine. But she, like manager Hill, says, "After I have perfected a winning combination, whom shall we play?" This question must remain unanswered until affairs in the University take on a broader view.

Manager Hill is very optimistic. She quickly accounted for the defeat of her machine in a recent game, and intends to fortify those weaknesses. She has a heavy schedule in sight, but will be unable to keep it unless the faculty grants her permission to keep her "Five" out of the city over night. When this is granted and soon it will be we trust, Howard's fame will be spread, doubly fast, because the girls will be vying with the boys for victories.

Inter-Class Basket Ball Contests

The time for the reopening of the inter-class basket-ball season has come, and all are looking forward to witnessing some spirited and well contested battles. The occasion of class contests has always carried with it high enthusiasm, and a strong, ennobling spirit which necessitates a full attendance at the games. Aside from the general good humor, and kindly fellowship which such games offer the rooters, there are certain very definite benefits which accrue to the players.

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First, there is that physical exercise and development which is so necessary to every human being; and, secondly, there comes the knowledge of knowing how to meet one’s fellows in manly contests, and of bearing defeat and victory.

To know the gentle art of properly contesting with one’s fellows in any department of life is a valuable asset to one’s character; and any subject, sport, or contest that tends to supply that knowledge merits a large space in a college program. The inter-class contests, as arranged by Director Carroll, because of their democratic nature, are well-fitted to supply that knowledge.

In these contests, a first year Academy student meets on an equal basis a senior college man; a sophomore commercial in an institution of learning. The influence of fraternities on college and university life formed no small part of the deliberations of the Grand Chapter. It was agreed that colored fraternity men are doing good work, but that they are not doing all they can to better our race and our institutions of learning. The influence of fraternities on college and university life formed no small part of the deliberations of the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Convenes

The Grand Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity convened in Washington, during the holidays. The convention was in session three days, December 28, 29, 30. All of the meetings were held at the Chapter House of the Alpha Chapter, 322 Tea Street, N. W.

The Grand Chapter is the supreme body of the organization. It is the supreme legislative body of the fraternity.

The business of the fraternity was thoroughly dealt with. New laws were made, and old ones revised. Plans for the future were made. When all the business was finished, officers were elected.

The newly elected are: J. C. McMorris of Beta, Grand Basileus; A. L. Dingle of Alpha, Grand Keeper of the Seal; J. G. Dingle of Alpha, reelected Grand Keeper of Records.

It is good to win high honors, to run off with the highest score, but the man, who, having lost, still is able to appear bright and maintain towards his conquerors a friendly attitude is the man who will succeed in life. Winning and losing in turn are fates of many classes that enter these inter-class contests, and it is insisted upon that both the victors and the conquered maintain the same decorum. Such a practice continually in vogue breeds a habit which follows its possessor through life and proves very beneficial to him.

In the light of these few named results which come from inter-class contests, one readily sees the value of them, and feels called upon to lend his assistance in supporting them. It is hoped, therefore, that all the students on hill will enter heartily and enthusiastically into these contests and make them a success.

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—“Peane Dents”

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The Stylus Reception

One of the most pleasant features of the holidays was a reception given by The Stylus, on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 27, to honorary members of the body, and members of the Negro Academy, convening in the city at that time. The earlier part of the afternoon was spent in greeting, informally, the guests of the evening, in the parlor of Miner Hall. Later the company went to the Assembly Hall, where a more formal program was given.

After a pleasing rendering of Dunbar’s “Who Knows” by Mr. Bush Hunter, Mr. Gregory introduced the honor guests, Mr. John Bruce, of New York City, editor and writer; and Mr. A. A. Schomburg of Brooklyn, collector of Negro literature. After brief remarks from these guests, were short talks from Dean Pickens, and Rev. Bragg, of Baltimore, Mr. Cromwell, Mr. Murray, Mr. Clifford, and Prof. Moenz of Holland. Miss Elsie Brown spoke for the Stylus. Mr. Eugene Davidson of Harvard and Mr. Rayford Logan, of Williams College, also spoke briefly, voicing the fact that their schools afforded no opportunity for such work as The Stylus was trying to do.

Light refreshments were then served and a general social half hour was spent before the guests departed. The guests of the evening were: Mr. A. A. Schomburg, Mr. John Bruce, the Rev. Mr. Bragg, Prof. Wm. A. Joiner, Wilberforce, Mr. J. R. Murray, Prof. Geo. Wm. Cook, Mr. Pelham, Prof. Herman Moenz, Dr. and Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. and Mrs. Parks, Dr. E. Albert Cook, Mr. and Miss Clifford, Mr. J. W. Cromwell, Sr., Miss Edna Brown, Mr. Rayford Logan, Williams College, Mr. Eugene L. Davidson, Harvard University, Misses Cavassa Satterwhite, Carrie B. Long, Adelaide Smith, Pauline Simms, A. M. Caine, Nannie Board, Ruth Mason.

—Elsie H. Brown.

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