

This Department went to press Friday, October 30.

Under date of October 24 this Department criticised the University of Pennsylvania Athletic Committee for continuing, after other universities had abandoned it as of unwholesome influence, preliminary football practice; on the "evidence thus given of viewing the game and the preparation for it rather as a business than as a sport"; and for the thereby suggested assimilation to a professional spirit which regards victory of first importance.

We have received a letter from this committee, which,

as requested, is herewith published—not that there are two sides to the preliminary-practice question, but because the work of this committee in other directions in the general effort making for healthful college sport suggests the possibility of an honest difference of opinion, and entitles them to our consideration:

PHILADELPHIA, October 22, 1896.

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SIR,—The paragraphs in this week's issue of Harper's Werelly in which you refer to us contain views which we believe are unsound, and criticisms that are unjust to Pennsylvania. With your statement that Pennsylvania is revealing a professional spirit in football we take distinct issue. It is true that the candidates for our team spent three weeks (not a month) in preliminary training at a hotel, not "hired especially for the occasion," but along with many September guests. This practice was taken openly, not covertly, as in the case, as you know, of some of the other prominent universities. Consistently with amateur sport, similar preliminary training has always been recognized. know, of some of the other prominent universities. Consistently with amateur sport, similar preliminary training has always been recognized and indulged in—e.g., the annual preliminary training of the Yale and Harvard crews at New London; of our own and the Columbia, Cornell, and Harvard crews, who were quartered for several weeks at the hotels near Poughkeepsie last summer; of the Yale crew who recently spent six weeks in preliminary training at Henley, as did Cornell the year before; of the Yale track team preparatory to their games with Oxford in '95; of the Cambridge track team here last summer; and of the All



AN INDIAN MASS PLAY ON YALE TACKLE FOR FIVE YARDS GAIN.

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the same proposition to Yale and Princeton had we expected to play football with them.

With respect to our rules of eligibility, you well know they are very strict, and have been rigidly enforced for several years, including the rule to which you call attention in this same issue as having been recently passed by another university, namely, the "one year's residence rule."

There may be ground, in spite of the above facts, for some houest difference of considerable to the premission we have greated for these

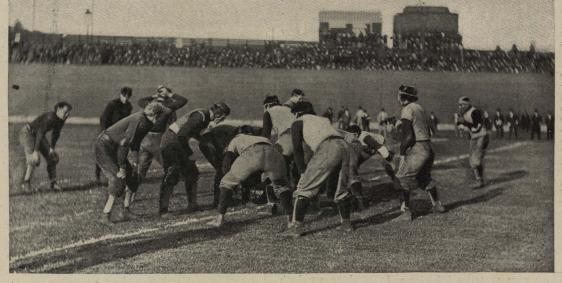
difference of opinion as to the permission we have granted for three

especially for the occasion," or whether the period of free board and lodging extends over six weeks or is ended at

three.

The comparison in the Committee's letter of this preliminary football practice with the final work of the college crews at New London and Poughkeepsie has no point whatsoever. They are by no means parallel cases, either in spirit or in fact. Besides, the crew-work at Poughkeepsie and New London is not preliminary (except insomuch as all training is indeed preliminary up to the very day of contest); it is the finishing work just before the race, and the men are practically all assigned to their positions. Both the Yale and the Cornell crews, and the Yale and the Cambridge track teams, had been in training several the Cambridge track teams, had been in training several months before they went into final preparation near the scene of their approaching international struggle.

BUT ALL THIS IS BESIDE THE QUESTION of the preliminary BUTALL THIS IS BESIDE THE QUESTION of the preliminary practice with which we have been confronted in football. Of course the life of men during preliminary football practice is "simple and wholesome"; men in training are not usually permitted indulgence in dissipations. It is not the point how much expenditure of "physical exertion" is needed by football; it is not the point that the man likely to neglect his studies for football should be taught "a part of his football lesson before his actual scholastic work



YALE IS. CARLISLE INDIANS, MANHATTAN FIELD, OCTOBER 24, 1896. Cayou, Indian Back, awaiting his Signal.

American amateur track team preparatory to their contest with the representative amateur team of England in 1895.

If "the example and experience of older and more conservative institutions" (we may say, en passant, that Pennsylvania, second only to Harvard in point of age, was founded by Franklin in 1740) are necessary, you will at once recall the above and other instances of a similar kind.

From our faculty's stand-point a limited period thus spent in preliminary training is eminently proper and beneficial. The mode of life of the young men during these three weeks was simple and wholesome; their fare was of the plainest; their work was carefully super-

some; their fare was of the plainest; their work was carefully supervised with relation to their general health as much as to their football capacity. The men who were thought to be slow in their studies were encouraged to spend a part of each day with their books.

Football is a game requiring a maximum expenditure of physical exertion, and a condition of mental alertness and activity which makes great demands on both the body and the mind of the player. We believe that it is unwise to allow young men to engage in it without at least so much careful preliminary attention, to their healty conditions. at least so much careful preliminary attention to their bodily condition as will ensure them against unnecessary strain and injury; and we think, with all respect, that this is a matter about which you are less qualified to form an intelligent opinion than some members of our own body. We believe also that the football season makes less deless qualified to form an intelligent opinion that some means own body. We believe also that the football season makes less demand on the time and thought of an undergraduate if he has learned at least a part of his football lesson before his actual scholastic work begins. Otherwise the students are apt to be so physically fatigued as to be unfit for study, and therefore unable to maintain their class standing—a prerequisite to participation in athletics at Pennsylvania. Our medical advisers, as well as our faculty committee, believe that the men are both safer physically and better students, as well as better football-players, for limiting rather than abolishing this preliminary period.

period.

We think, moreover, that the game itself as developed in this countries are the countries and fostertry has a value to the whole student body, as encouraging and fostering manly attributes, which justifies this slight extension of the football season as a means of promoting the scientific character of the game.

We have been in favor of a limitation of this preliminary training, which, like much else in American athletics, has tended to extremes. On February 12, 1896, we wrote to Harvard that we thought "it would be wise to limit the preliminary season for football training, and would be quite willing to act simultaneously with Harvard in the and would be quite willing to act similtaneously with Harvard in the passage of a rule which should forbid the candidates for the team from assembling for this purpose, either as a body or in separate squads, for a period longer than three weeks prior to the date of the opening of the university." We added: "The climate in Philadelphia and vicinity is so insufferably hot, however, in September, that we would not deem it prudent, as far as Pennsylvania is concerned, to require the candidates to assemble at the university. If you will draft such a rule and send it on, our committee will join with you in enact-ng it." To this proposition we had a cordial assent, saying that there had been opposition to such action, but that if we would act jointly with them there would be no more trouble about it. Although, on account of preoccupation, the mutual agreement was not formally entered into, our committee proceeded to make the rule as above suggested to govern Pennsylvania. We would, of course, have made weeks' preliminary practice, but talk of such action as "revealing a professional spirit" is so intemperate as in itself to do more harm to the cause of amateur sport than would an even longer period of preliminary training.

Yours truly,

J. WILLIAM WHITE,

H. LAUSSAT GEYELIN,

JNO. C. BELL,

GERGUER WILLEAN PROPER

GEORGE WHARTON PEPPER.

EVIDENTLY THESE GENTLEMEN do not completely understand precisely what is meant by preliminary practice. The custom upon which this Department has always diracted its criticism, and will continue always to do so, is that of getting together for football drilling, several weeks before the college term opens, all candidates for the eleven and boarding and lodging them free of cost. I fail to see what difference it makes in the spirit of the proceeding whether part of a hotel or the entire caravansary is "hired



INDIANS SCORE A TOUCH-DOWN. Captain B. Pierce about to kick Goal.

begins"; it is the point that any university should lay such stress upon the winning of their football eleven as to go beyond the usual time of preparation and breed professional instincts by lodging and boarding men for no other purpose than that they might secure that much more drilling and advantage over their rivals, and have thereby an extra chance or two of success.

This is the point in this specific case:—that Pennsylvania should persist in maintaining this preliminary prac-



THE INDIAN CENTRE. Lone Wolf, Centre; B. Pierce, Right Guard; Wheelock, Left Guard; Hudson, Quarter-back.

tice when all friends of healthful college sport are agreed that it is a menace, and after all the leading universities have officially abandoned it. For abandoned it they have, despite the allusion in the committee's letter to covert practice by "other prominent universities." Three or four Princeton backs that had summered in the neighborhood of Asbury Park met every day for a week for practice in kicking; a couple of Yale's backs did the same at their homes; several Harvard backs were the guests for a week, I believe, of Professor Beale at his country place. That is all the preliminary practice of which I have heard in connection with "other prominent universities." and in in connection with "other prominent universities," and in every case, except perhaps Harvard's, the men were at or near where they had made their residence during vacation, and in no case was there organized practice, nor was the board and lodging or the expenses of any of the indi-viduals paid by his university athletic association.

It is well enough to enter a plea for preliminary practice on the ground of "promoting the scientific character of the game," but the indisputable fact is that preliminary practice is not and never was countenanced for that particular purpose. It was first inaugurated with the idea of sizing up the men, of sifting the impossible from possible candidates for vacant positions; subsequently it developed into a preliminary drilling in the rudiments of the game, and first and last and at all times it has been regarded valuable not as an aid in promoting the scientific side of football, but as giving the team an extra change or side of football, but as giving the team an extra chance or

side of football, but as giving the team an extra chance or so of winning.

Even were it solely a promoter of football science, it should still be viewed with alarm, since intelligent observers are agreed that the game is already too scientific. What we need in all our games is more manifestation of a spirit of sport for sport's sake; and the abandonment of this preliminary practice by Harvard, Yale, and Princeton was gratifying evidence of the dawn of just such a spirit.

As to Pennsylvania's statement, that "our medical advisers, as well as our faculty committee, believe that the advisers, as well as our faculty committee, believe that the men are both safer physically and better students, as well as better football-players, for limiting rather than abolishing this preliminary period "—of course I make no pretence to medical knowledge, nor have I any means of knowing whether the scholarship of the Pennsylvania eleven averages higher than that of the teams of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Cornell, though I should be much surprised to learn that it did. But regarding injuries and football playing and training perhaps I am qualified to football playing and training, perhaps I am qualified to speak.

Last October, after six weeks of preliminary practice before the college term began, Pennsylvania's team, despite its veteran and highly skilled *personnel*, had one of the most extraordinary "slumps," to drop into the vernacular, that have probably ever been seen on the gridiron. At about the last of October and first of November their play was far from first-class, while they had as many men on the injured list as any of the colleges that had not gone through a "prediction" practice."

on the injured list as any of the colleges that had not gone through a "preliminary practice."

This October, after three weeks of a "simple and wholesome" life on Long Island, during which "their work was carefully supervised with relation to their general health as much as to their football capacity," the Pennsylvania team is playing poorer football than Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, which had no preliminary practice, and has more men reported on the injured list.

It seems to me these facts speak for themselves.

Truth is the value, from a playing point of view, of pre-

Truth is, the value, from a playing point of view, of pre-liminary football practice is a sophistry. Men get too much of football and training; they go stale in mind and body. Any intelligent trainer knows as much.

PENNSYLVANIA'S ATHLETIC COMMITTEE has during the past year shown itself a sincere champion of wholesome college sport. It would be too bad to create doubts of that sincerity by the toleration of anything so productive of professional instincts as this preliminary football-training position.

To give men free board and lodging in pay for their attendance at football practice is an offence against both the

spirit and the letter of the amateur law.

To prepare athletes during vacation for a contest which comes within term time is to reveal a spirit that regards

mere winning as paramount.

And this is the spirit of the professional.

How far the Bankers' Athletic Club (Chicago) has gone in its disregard of amateur first principles may be judged by the following excerpts from an official announcement of the chairman of the club's athletic com-

mittee:
"The athletic policy that prevailed in the club's early days, insisting that participation in club teams be limited exclusively to members, was entirely a matter of sentiment, never demanded by the letter or spirit of our laws, nor by any expressed wish of the membership at large. It has been and will continue to be our policy to favor as far as possible club members in the selection of

club teams, but we do not believe it to be the sentiment of the membership that such a policy be pursued at the expense of making our teams the laughing-stock of the

athletic world.'

What an extraordinary pronouncement from the athletic chairman of an amateur club! It evidently does not occur to this heedless official that the credit reflected upon a competing club is measured in the amateur world more by the personnel of its teams than by their work. might be even more commendable to create merriment than disgust. But then patent facts are lost on such an official; he will appreciate them, probably, when he has run his club into dissolution. Meantime at least one member of the club has the courage of his ethical convictions, Frank E. Brown, who has resigned the presidency, but continues his efforts to convert his confrères. His field is large, and the material obdurate, we fear.

HARVARD AND PRINCETON will meet next Saturday at Cambridge, and the crimson eleven is certain to reveal much better football than the team's recent exhibitions would suggest. Last Saturday's games must have given some indication of what Harvard and Princeton are capable; but owing to Election day falling on one of our regular printing days, and the parade for Sound Money and McKinley making a holiday of Saturday, this Department went to press Friday, and my last view of these teams was on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 27 and 28, ten days be-

fore their game.

Ten days to the Harvard eleven in its present stage of development ought to be sufficient to bring it from ragged, uncertain work up to steady, consistently hard football. There is certainly the making in Harvard's material this year of a team of great strength and dash. Some valuable time has been lost in playing Cabot at full-back and in the delay of choosing the line men, and there is no doubt that Wrightington's absence from the back field has had a depressing influence on the spirit of play. Nevertheless, if Harvard has been wise enough to spare her crippled men from the chance of further injury in the her crippled men from the chance of further injury in the Indian game (October 31), even though it resulted in defeat, she will have a team to send against Princeton next Saturday (November 7) that will put up a very sharp struggle, and have some chance of winning a close, hard game. Of course this is assuming that Harvard is going to make the most out of her material, and that Wrightington and Wheeler particularly the former will be able to ton and Wheeler, particularly the former, will be able to play at least through one half. If these men do not start in the game, and if Arthur Brewer does not play at end, and Haughton is unable to take his place at right tackle, Harvard's prospects for success against Princeton are de-

In no recent game has the personnel of Harvard's eleven been so settled or its work as a unit so consistent as to give a definite idea of its possibilities. One has been able only to gather but a vague impression of its capabilities under development from occasional glimpses of team-play and from some most excellent individual of team-play and from some most excellent individual effort. The Brown game proved what Dunlop and R. Brown can do in kicking and ground-gaining with the ball in hand, and what a steadying and rallying power is Frank Shaw in the line. The game on Wednesday against a team composed of Harvard graduates can hardly be taken as a criterion of Harvard play, since the 'varsity, outside the centre trio, the quarter-back, and right end, was composed largely of substitutes for the greater length of the game, and opposed to these men were Hallowell, Bert Waters, Marshall Newell, and Arthur Brewer, four of the best tackles and ends Harvard ever had. Befour of the best tackles and ends Harvard ever had. Besides which, as coaches of Harvard, they of course knew all the 'varsity signals.

HARVARD'S PLAY WAS VERY POOR, nevertheless, more so than there was any reason for. After Dunlop's field goal, which was the 'varsity's only score (against their oppowhich was the 'varsity's only score (against their opponents' 8 points), Harvard never really played the game, and the graduates were masters of the situation to the call of time. Outside of the centre, and Moulton at right end, Harvard's line-work was exceedingly ragged. Lewis at end has not fulfilled the promise he gave at the beginning of the season, and no amount of gruelling seems likely to round Sargent into a satisfactory tackle. This will be a vulnerable point indeed if it be not materially strengthened before the Princeton game. And yet Mills and Merriman appear to have every natural requisite for tackle, and have done fairly well too, but none has given evidence of being really strong in the position, and the best Harvard has are undoubtedly Wheeler and Haughton, neither of whom is nearly so good as Church of ton, neither of whom is nearly so good as Church of Princeton, or has even shown such excellent all-round work as Hildebrand, also of Princeton.

At this writing Wheeler and Haughton are both laid up with bad knees, and while they will probably play next Saturday, Wheeler's rest, meantime, has told or the condition of a man naturally inclined to take on

weight.

Harvard's centre ought to be strong. There are few better men than the two Shaws at centre and right guard, and Bouvé has given every evidence of working into a satisfactory left guard. He is inexperienced, and therefore does not get into the play as much as a first-class guard should, but he is strong and improving and, when he runs with the ball, hits the line hard, and is seldom stopped short of a gain. If Wheeler and Haughton are both equal to playing, the tackle positions will be fairly strong, though Harvard has not been really strong here for two years. Had these two men heen fit the last three for two years. Had these two men been fit the last three weeks, they would have worked into such shape as to give Harvard as much stability at tackle as in the centre. give Harvard as much stability at tackle as in the centre. If they can keep in active practice until November 21, Harvard will close the season against Pennsylvania with a strong, well-balanced line. Cabot will have hard work getting in form for the Princeton game, but may be relied upon to look after his end satisfactorily. If Arthur Brewer plays, it should make a great difference in the strength of the Harvard line, and good ends will be needed to stop Princeton's end plays. In case Brewer does not play end, Moulton will probably do so, and though he is not so valuable, considered from every point of view. he is not so valuable, considered from every point of view, he is a very good end, and one calculated to make a repu-

he is a very good end, and one calculated to make a reputation before he closes his football career.

Beale has improved his work at quarter, particularly in getting into the play, and should be of much greater service to the eleven than he was last year. Barring Gelbert of Pennsylvania, there are no better backs in the country than Dunlop and Brown, and Wrightington is Gelbert's equal if not superior. If Wrightington does not play, Harvard's loss will be extreme; at least he should direct the game, even if it be from the side-lines.

Comparing the two teams as they are to-day, Princeton's

Comparing the two teams as they are to-day, Princeton's chances of winning are certainly two to one, but in the ten days that intervene between this writing and the game there is opportunity for Harvard to bring her eleven up to a degree of skill that will assure a close contest, and may even turn what now looks like defeat into victory.

IF THE PRINCETON ELEVEN can hold its best pace, and does not become a victim of over-confidence, it ought to close this season in more glory than it did the last one. It seems to me I have noted a new spirit in the general play of the eleven; formerly the team played in its practice games as if it were conferring an honor upon its opponents in merely lining up against them, and did not have to play good football to beat them. There must have been some excellent coaching and good influence at work this year, for there is an absence of that tiresome bumptiousness,

and in its stead an apparent feeling that there is yet some

and in its stead an apparent feeling that there is yet some football worth the learning.

Certainly the eleven has played with commendable spirit, and set to work early and earnestly to supply the vacancies left by two such high-class guards as Riggs and Rhoades. The best showing the team has made was against the strong Indian eleven, which it defeated, 22 to 6—i.e., it was the best showing insomuch as it revealed the possibilities of the Princeton eleven when aroused to the possibilities of the Princeton eleven when aroused to its utmost endeavors. It played a hard game against Lafayette, which resulted in a tie score, 0-0, but it was too early in the season for its best work; it was, in other words, not such good play as it made against West Point (winning by 11 to 0) or against the Indians. And this is by no means disparaging Lafayette's work, for it is thoroughly first class, as its victory (6-4) over Pennsylvania conclusively proved.

THE STRENGTH OF PRINCETON THIS YEAR is most appar-The strength of Princeton this year is most apparent in the number of men that get into every play. There is evidence of a disposition among the players to regard their usefulness not ended until the ball is "held." Which means that every man considers every possible tackle as his tackle, and this is the spirit that makes team-play and a hard eleven to beat. If they can sustain this spirit and keep up their improvement in play, Princeton ought to defeat both Harvard and Yale.

defeat both Harvard and Yale.
Practically the Princeton eleven is settled upon, although in the remaining weeks of the season changes at left guard and left end are possibilities. Gailey is permanently located at centre, and is thus far the strongest of the year. Armstrong, who last year played behind the line, is at right guard, and though not the equal of either Riggs or Rhoades, is satisfactory. Left guard has been filled by Tyler, formerly at tackle, the greater part of the time, and latterly on occasions by Crowdis, some time substitute centre. Tyler is not an ideal guard, and at times not even a satisfactory one; in some respects Crowdis is better; he is more steadfast against mass plays, but not so quick on his feet, and more easily put out of a play. Chances are Tyler will fill the place, but if he does not brace up, his will be a weak spot in the line. though in the remaining weeks of the season changes at

THE TACKLE POSITIONS WILL BE WELL FILLED by Church and Hildebrand, both of whom are very strong on defensive work, and into every play for a purpose. Cochran has not done as good work at right end as he did bet ween did last year.

A line-man saddled with the captaincy rarely does himself justice. Still, he is a good strong player, but will be outclassed by Cabot, A. Brewer, Bass, and Hinkey, unless he attains his old form speedily. On Princeton's left end Thompson had been playing until Brokaw revealed such unexpected strength, since when Thompson has been seen less frequently. Brokaw evidently has the stuff in him for a first-class end, but his 'varsity experience is limited to this season, and it is doubtful whether, in an important game, like the approaching one with Harvard, for portant game, like the approaching one with Harvard, for

instance, he would be so serviceable to his team as Thompson, who, after all, is a thoroughly trustworthy player.

Comparing the two lines, it will be about an even thing between the centre trios, with Princeton stronger at tackle and Harvard stronger on the ends.

and Harvard stronger on the ends.

Behind the line, Smith has developed into so good a quarter as to not only put Suter out of consideration, but to give Princeton greater strength in that position than she has had since King filled it. Of the half-backs there is little choice among Bannard, Reiter, and Kelly; all are hard line-buckers, Kelly perhaps the most determined of the three, though he is not quite so quick in getting under way perhaps. In Baird, Princeton has developed a full-back who bids fair to head the list this year. He is a strong runner, and certain in handling and kicking the strong runner, and certain in handling and kicking the ball. It will be dangerous for Harvard or Yale to give him a chance for field goal from anywhere near the 35-

yard line. Harvard always plays a stronger game on home grounds than elsewhere, and we shall see a fine exhibition of football on Soldiers Field next Saturday, while the chances of winning must be considered somewhat to favor Prince-

YALE'S HALF-BACK PROBLEM still remains unsolved. In the game against the Elizabeth A. C., which referee decisions gave them, 12 to 6, they played Goodman, Mills, and Benjamin, and none showed any especial improvement over the work in the Indian game. The chief need seems to be a steadying influence back of the line, and it would seem Hinkey at full should furnish it, although no results are yet apparent. In kicking, Hinkey is an improvement on Chauncey, but his line-bucking is not good enough to make his services in the back field as valuable as they should be. Chamberlain at centre is an improvement on McFarlan, and Murray has somewhat bettered his work, though he still wastes his energy at inopportune times. Yale's line, it is safe to say, will work into first-class shape; and will be beyond criticism, no doubt, when it meets Princeton. But vigorous coaching is needed to bring the back field up to standard. Some experimenting will probably be done within the next ten days, and by the second week in November we shall be better able to judge of Yale's prospects.

The Yale football association should take official notice of the gift its eleven has had of the Indian and Elizabeth A. C. games. On both occasions the referees were ex-Yale 'varsity players, Hickok and De Witt, and each time outrageously unfair decisions gave the game to Yale. A stop should be put to this partisanship or incompetency of YALE'S HALF-BACK PROBLEM still remains unsolved.

rageously unfair decisions gave the game to Yale. A stop should be put to this partisanship or incompetency of officials, and it would be sportsmanly of Yale, as the most illustrious recipient of unearned favors this season, to take the initiative.

PENNSYLVANIA'S GAME AGAINST BROWN, WON by score 16-0, showed much improvement on their play against Lafayette. It found Woodruff back at left guard—where he belongs—and a new and superior man at quarter in Fortescue. There was some fumbling, but two blocked kicks showed Penn's weakness most painfully. The eleven do not seem to be together, and the team-play we have been accustomed to see in Penn. is lacking.

Brown played a strong game, Colby and Hall and Fultz doing especially good work.

CASPAR WHITNEY.