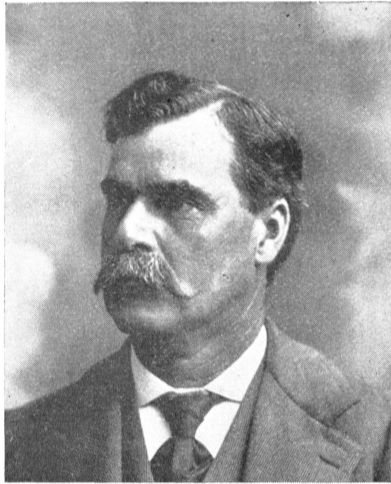


## THE CORNELL CREW OF '97.

**A Very Unusual History.—How the Veterans were Supplanted.**

Poughkeepsie, June 19, 1897. The history of the Cornell crew this year furnishes a striking illustration of the uncertainties of rowing. At the beginning of the season every man who rowed on last year's victorious eight presented himself at the crew room in the University Gymnasium and announced that he intended the man who should win his seat in the boat from him should work for his position. As long as the practice was confined to work on the rowing machines every one felt that the crew should make a strong fight again at Poughkeepsie. They rowed in almost as good form as at the end of last season, and there seemed to be an abundance of power.



CHARLES E. COURTNEY.  
Coach of Cornell.

second crew had improved so much more rapidly than the University crew that they defeated the veterans quite handily every time a race was arranged. The expected improvement in the University's speed did not come. Their form remained all that one could ask, but the lack of power was painfully manifest. The Sophomore crew not only defeated them in every one of the two-mile races that they rowed, but the defeats became worse week by week. The youngsters were preparing for their two-mile race with Annapolis on May 15, and were not sent for a longer distance. They won their race handily in rough water and slow time. After their return they were tried against the University for three miles. They demonstrated in no uncertain fashion that theirs was not only the ability to sprint for two miles; they defeated the University so badly over the longer course that all doubt as to their superiority vanished instantly. The positions of the crews was exactly reversed. The question was no longer whether any of the Annapolis crew would secure a seat in the University boat, but whether any of last year's crew would be able to win his seat from any of the 'Ninety-nine men.

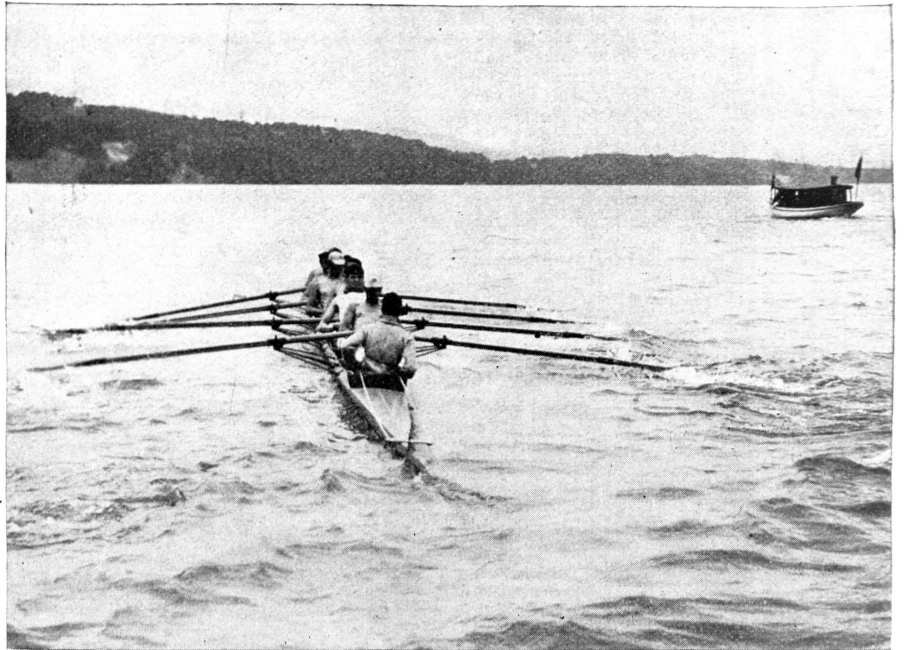
There were rumors, too, that the rapid improvement in the Sophomore boat had been only apparent, that the fact was that there had been slack training on the part of some men in the University boat, and that the difference between the two boats was due to their deterioration rather than to improvement on the part of the Sophomores.

## THE SHAKE-UP.

Whatever the cause, there was evidently no use in waiting longer for the older men to improve. On June 1 they were informed that only one of their number, Savage, would be retained at training table. The whole University was startled at this tremendous "shake-up," but every one felt that there was nothing else to do. Afterward Briggs and Spillman were taken back, and when Moore returned from the civil engineering camp at Otisco Lake he had evidently trained with such care that he was allowed to take up his work where he had left it when the Faculty had refused to excuse him from the regular field work of the engineers.

The discarded men, without exception, admitted the justice of what had been done, and most of them continued to appear at the boathouse, saying in the best of spirit, "If we cannot row ourselves we can at least help make the other fellows row." So a pacing crew was made up and relay races began between the 'Ninety-nine crew, reinforced by Savage and Bentley (one of the Henley substitutes) and the old University, and Freshman, relieving each other. The 'Ninety-nine crew continued to improve and demonstrated that they were good for three miles, at least.

None of the men could leave Ithaca

HARVARD UNIVERSITY CREW.  
The Oars Are Just Coming Back.

(From a Photograph at Poughkeepsie, June 17.)

until June 16, Commencement Day, and their practice on the Hudson has been therefore limited.

It seems not yet altogether certain at the time of writing, who will stroke the crew on the day of the race. Either Carter, the stroke of the Annapolis crew, or Briggs of last year's University, would be a good man and they are relieving each other in the practice. There seems to be some difference of stroke between last year's crew and the '99 men, which may result in Carter's pulling No. 8 on Friday.

The men have the same quarters that they occupied last year, the "old Hicks Place," on the summit of Prospect Hill in Poughkeepsie, about a mile below the bridge. They are in good spirits and hope to make a good showing, whoever wins. Their boathouse is abreast their quarters on the east shore below the city.

This year's University race between Harvard, Cornell and Yale is fraught with especial interest for two reasons; it marks the resumption of rowing contests between Yale and Harvard and it will be the first time that Yale and Cornell have met on the water in twenty-two years. Harvard and Cornell rowed at Poughkeepsie last year in company with Columbia and Pennsylvania, but Cornell has not rowed

against Yale since 1875 at Saratoga, in the races of the old Intercollegiate Association. Cornell won that race, as indeed she had won the Freshman race the day before. There were thirteen starters, however and Yale felt that such a number was unwieldy and undesirable. Accordingly Yale withdrew from the Association and in 1876 Harvard followed her example, after being defeated by both Yale and Cornell. Cornell was unable to gain admittance to the subsequent races between Yale and Harvard.

## CORNELL'S RECORD.

Cornell holds the American Intercollegiate records for four miles, for three miles and for one and a half miles, all in eights. Since the Intercollegiate Association ceased to exist, Cornell has rowed with Pennsylvania, Columbia and Harvard. Since 1883 the Cornell crews have used the much-talked-about "Courtney stroke," a purely American production, according to some authorities. Anyone who has ever watched it knows that there is nothing mysterious or new about it. When the oars drop into the water, to begin the stroke, the seat is forward on its slide as far as it can go, the arms straight out, the knees bent sharply but not spread and the back straight. A quick sharp catch to grip the water well in the oar-blade and the shoulders start back, at the same time the legs begin to straighten and the seat runs back. The arms are not bent until the legs are straight. Then, the body well back, the hands are brought into the oarsman's lap, dropped, to take the blade out of the water turned quickly to turn the blade flat, and shot out straight immediately. The seat comes back quickly as the body bends forward at the hips but slows up as it nears the end of the slide so that there is no jar to stop the boat between strokes.

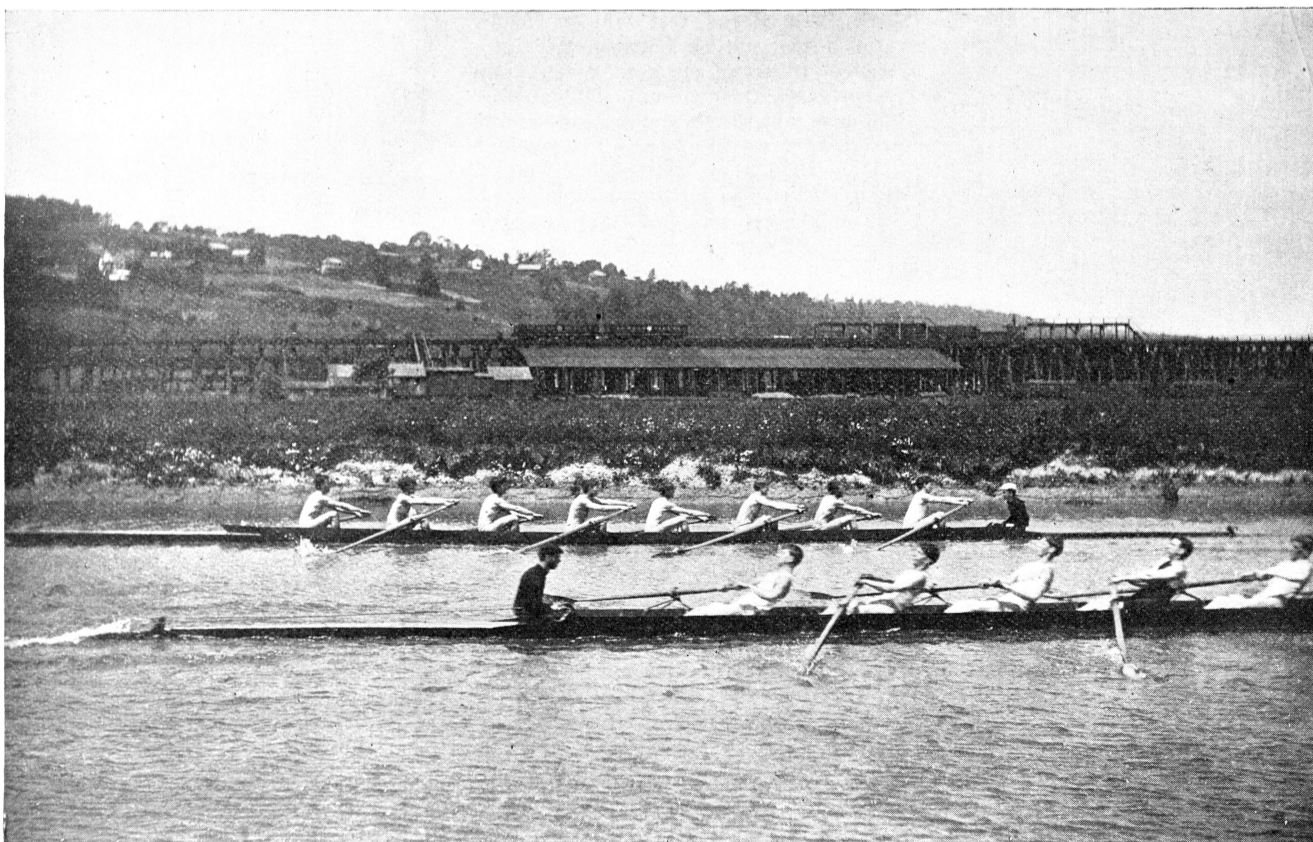
Cornell has two University crews here at Poughkeepsie besides the Freshman crew. The pictures show the men who will probably row in the race. They are as follows:

	Age.	Height	Wt.
Bow—Samuel W. Wakeman, '99, E. E., Bridgeport, Conn.....	20	6	165
2—Wilton Bentley, '98, E. E., Fluvanna, N. Y.....	20	5-11	158
3—Clarence S. Moore, '98, C. E., Olean, N. Y.....	20	5-10½	168
4—Asa C. King, '99, Agr., Trumansburg, N. Y.....	20	6	168
5—Mark M. Odell, '97, Letters, Baldwinsville, N. Y.	25	5-11	162
6—Charles M. Oddie, '99, M. E., East Orange, N.J.	20	6-1½	168
7—Edward J. Savage, '98, Optional, New Haven, Conn. ....	22	5-11½	148
Stroke—Emment B. Carter, '99, M. E., Owego, N.Y.....	21	5-10½	148
Coxswain—Frederick D. Colson, '97, Letters, Buffalo, N. Y.....	21	5-6	106
Substitutes:—			
Frederick A. Briggs, '98, Letters, Waterloo, Canada .....	24	5-6	134
William C. Dalzell, Jr., '99, C. E., South Egremont, Mass., .....	19	5-11	160
Theodore L. Bailey, '99, Phil., New York City.....	20	6	148
William B. Stamford, '99, F. E., Grand View, N. Y.	19	5-10	150

Age. Height. Wt.  
Averages ..... 21 5-11¼ 162.4  
E. P. A.

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY CREW.

Oars Have Just Entered. Part of Freshman Crew in Foreground at Finish of Stroke.



(From Photograph at Ithaca, June 14.)