

## YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY

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NEW HAVEN, CONN., JAN. 13, 1898.

## FOR CLASS SECRETARIES.

The secretaries of classes are very important officers to their own classes. They do not yet seem to realize how valuable they may be to the rest of the alumni of Yale. If they did, they would make more frequent and complete report to this paper of what the members of their class are doing. These facts are of interest to many others than those in their own class, and the more of them we can publish the better we can keep the Yale family acquainted with itself, and so together. We ask again the secretaries to send us fully and promptly all the information they get about their class. We would be very glad to supply those who are without with postals, return envelopes, and other necessities for correspondence. We especially ask all to communicate directly with this office in all these matters, as the sending of news through a third party is very apt to mean its loss or damage.

## INTERCOLLEGIATE DIFFICULTIES.

As this page is prepared, the chances are favorable for an early agreement between Cornell and Yale with regard to next June's boat race. From what has been given to people most interested in the way of information, that is, from what little we know, there is no ground for criticising anybody for the way in which things have gone this time. As far as it appears, the men who have acted for Yale have offered to do all that they could, consistent with what they believed to be the chief and permanent interests of Yale's boating, in carrying out the desire very strongly felt by Yale men, that the eight from New Haven this year should meet the eight from Ithaca. In the same way it may be said, from what we know about Cornell's attitude in the matter, that she has met the situation with a proper regard for her own permanent interests. We are certainly very far from any disposition to criticize either side, or any individuals on either side, in this particular case. This allows us to say a few things in general about such matters, while public interest is directed to them.

Intercollegiate negotiations, generally speaking, with here and there a cheerful and encouraging exception, are unlovely things. Instead of representing the spirit of gentlemen who

wish to arrange stimulating athletic carnivals for the greatest satisfaction to those most directly and properly interested, and the physical and mental and moral good of the young men directly and indirectly concerned, they look to a disappointed world like shady money changers' instruments of exchange, shredded and perforated with sharks' teeth. Their effect on the college world is rather worse relatively than the temporary effects on the country at large of a hot presidential campaign. From what is said or inferred, whether by those who had any right to say anything, or by the most irresponsible parties, the picked youth of the land, seeking academic culture under the charge of one institution devoted to learning and the general cultivation of the habit of high living and noble thinking, are induced to believe that another set of the picked youth of the land, similarly gathered together and employed, at another institution with the same objects and purposes, are to a large extent purblind rascals, to whose mind logic is an unknown science and in whom the instincts of the gentleman never were or were long since extinguished. Men conducting these negotiations often appear (no matter how incorrectly) as actuated with a no less royal instinct of appropriation and consumed with no less a desire to fool people, than a Russian minister settling the Eastern question. A wearied world becomes hopelessly cynical as to the general atmosphere of academic shades, and turns for a comparatively pure air of sport to the adjustment of difficulties in professional baseball leagues.

They are really rather hideous, these intercollegiate rows, and we don't count it being over-optimistic to expect their disappearance soon. It ought to be a cardinal consideration with any college in arranging its athletics, to steer far clear of the possibility of such things. We would very heartily favor almost any arrangement of Yale's athletics which would tend to diminish this evil. In our not unprejudiced view, Yale is very nearly right on the main points of the management of athletics. She is so very near it that it is a pity she cannot perfect herself.

The story of a trip of Yale's musical representatives, which seems almost perfect in its success, is told elsewhere by one who took active part in this trip and several others before it. The account itself is enough to say of the facts of the trip. One thing which will bear emphasizing seems to be the excellent impression made by Yale men, who went so far and wide in the name of the University. They seem to be the right kind of men to travel under the goodly name of Yale. We are particularly glad this fact was so evident. No one ought to act for Yale, in any organization whatever, who is not himself a worthy representative of it. There are those, not many in number but very conspicuous in word and deed, who always pass for representatives of this institution, and who thereby add greatly to the ammunition of the slanderers of Yale. The more necessary is it to choose well, in point of character, when men are to be officially sent forth.

The character of Harvard's athletic organization has always been so foreign to the spirit of Yale's athletic management that it has very frequently been misunderstood by Yale men. It is certainly true that most Yale men cannot appreciate the good points of it. But the subject of athletic management is far from being a closed one, and the move now being made at Cam-

bridge for the further modification of the system there, is quite worth the consideration of those who consider the sports of the college as having a bearing upon the character of the place and the men who are in it. The situation at Harvard is very thoroughly covered in this week's letter.

## TO SUPPORT ATHLETICS.

## Circular Letter Sent Out To Harvard Graduates.

[Comment on this letter by our Harvard correspondent will be found in another column.]

Boston, Mass., January 4th, 1898.—On Saturday, December 11, 1897, some sixty representative Harvard graduates from New York, Boston and vicinity met to consider how the past members of the University could best serve its athletic interests. In the course of a very frank discussion of the subject, a letter signed by James J. Storrow, '85; Charles F. Adams, 2d, '88; Thomas N. Perkins, '91; Louis A. Frothingham, '93, and Bertram G. Waters, '94, was read, in which an association of all Harvard graduates interested in athletics was proposed. We quote from this letter:

"We think that such an association would have a strong influence in crystallizing the opinions of the graduates on matters of athletic interest;

"That the executive committee of the association would be a well-informed body, to whom all graduates could apply for information, and that in this way, ill-considered criticism, with its discouraging effect on teams and coaches, would be much lessened;

"That such an association would be an efficient body for the raising of money for such matters as improvements on Soldiers Field;

"And that such an association, by influencing the undergraduates, and in turn being influenced by the undergraduates, would tend to create a unity of opinion and action which at present is lacking."

The suggestion met with unanimous approval, and the undersigned were appointed a committee upon organization. We have considered the project with care, and are satisfied that the association is needed and can be made effective. We are assured of the hearty sympathy of all graduates whom we have been able to consult. We ask for your co-operation.

A meeting for organization will be held at Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, on Wednesday, the 26th day of January, at 8 o'clock P. M. All persons who have been connected as students with any department of the University are invited. We hope that you will be able to testify by your presence to your interest in Harvard athletics. As it will be impossible for us to notify every one, we ask you to extend this invitation to others.

By the constitution, which we shall submit for consideration at this meet-

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Prof. FRANCIS WAYLAND,

Dean.

ing, the management of the association is vested in an executive committee of twenty-four members, to be chosen immediately by ballot. Provision is made for balloting by mail at subsequent elections. It is not proposed that this executive committee shall interfere with the managers, of teams, dictate the choice of coaches, or attempt in any way to control the undergraduates, nor will it permit the association to become arrayed against either the University authorities, the Athletic Committee, or against any body or individual interested in Harvard athletics. It will, however, seek to establish intimate relations with all, in full confidence that they are ready and eager to secure such support and counsel as a strong, representative graduate-committee can give.

Graduates have long deplored the lack of a permanent policy in Harvard athletics, but have failed to realize that this was largely due to the lack of a permanent policy upon their own part. The proposed association will tend to remedy this. Its permanent secretary will be ready at all times to furnish to members accurate information and to receive suggestions and information from them. The executive committee will be in position to take advantage of such suggestions and information. It will be in touch with graduates and undergraduates, coaches and players, and its familiarity with past experience and present necessities will make it an effective agency in bringing about the unity of effort now lacking.

There is special cause for hope at present. The attitude of the University authorities has become less disheartening, and we believe that the co-operation of our association will be welcomed. The proposed plan will provide every member with the opportunity for such grade of activity as he may select. He may aim to serve on the Executive Committee; he may keep up a correspondence with the Secretary of the Association and be confident that his ideas will reach the proper authorities; or he can content himself with a yearly subscription and a vote.

The support of a large number of graduates is essential to success. To this end we have planned to make the yearly dues small—two dollars—and to omit the usual initiation fee. We urge you to signify your willingness to join the proposed Association by signing the card enclosed and mailing it at once to Edgar N. Wrightington, 1900 Tremont Building, Boston.

Very truly yours,  
Amory G. Hodges, '74,A. C. Tower, '77,  
Frederick W. Thayer, '78,  
Frederick W. Smith, '79,  
Edward D. Brandegee, '81,  
Roland W. Boyden, '85,  
Augustus P. Gardner, '86,  
Charles F. Adams, 2d, '88,  
Edward C. Storrow, '89,  
Edgar N. Wrightington, '97.

Committee upon organization.

It is reported that Edward Hanlan Ten Eyck, the winner of the Diamond Sculls at Henley last year, will enter the University of Pennsylvania as a student in the Dental Department.