

CORNELL AND YALE.

Story of the Negotiations and Conference.

Last June Yale, contrary to her custom, left New London and rowed at Poughkeepsie, where she was beaten by Cornell. This year Yale challenged Cornell for a race at New London. Cornell said she would race Yale at New London next June, if Yale would race her the following year at such time and place as Cornell would name. Yale replied that she had desired very much to race Cornell next June at New London, and still desired to do so, but that she could not agree to race the following year when and where Cornell should please. This is the substance of the official communication between Ithaca and New Haven of the last six or eight weeks. The situation has been a rather peculiar one, but most pleasantly free from all disagreeable features. In its development it has shown quite clearly one or two important things about Yale athletics. It is therefore worth while to give the history of the case quite fully.

THE YALE CHALLENGE.

The original challenge of Yale to Cornell was as follows:

F. D. Colson, Captain of the Cornell University Crew.

DEAR SIR: The Yale University Boat Club hereby challenges the Cornell University Boat Club to row a four-mile, eight-oared boat race at New London, Conn. The race to be rowed one week to ten days after our annual race with Harvard next June. It would be agreeable to us to have you join our dual contest with Harvard and make it a triangular one, if satisfactory to them.

PAYNE WHITNEY,

Captain of the Yale University Crew.
New Haven, Nov. 24, 1897.

CORNELL'S ANSWER.

A little over a week ago Cornell made the following answer to Yale's challenge:

Payne Whitney, Captain of the Yale University Crew.

DEAR SIR: I am instructed to communicate to you the following action of the Athletic Council regarding your proposition for a boat race. The Cornell navy accepts the proposition of the Yale University Boat Club for a four-mile, eight-oared race the coming season at the place and time named by Yale, provided Cornell be allowed in return to name the place and time of a similar race for next year. Cornell expresses, furthermore, her acceptance of Yale's suggestion to merge the race of this year, Harvard willing, in a triangular race with Harvard.

FREDERICK D. COLSON,
Captain of the Cornell University Crew.

YALE'S REPLY.

New Haven, Jan. 13.

Capt. F. D. Colson, Cornell University Crew, Ithaca, N. Y.

DEAR SIR: It has been and is our earnest desire that Cornell accept our invitation to row at New London this year, and we regret that in your reply of the 11th inst. a condition is imposed which we are unable to accept.

(Signed) PAYNE WHITNEY,
Captain of the Yale University Crew.

This is all the correspondence in the matter, and as far as Yale is concerned it is the complete official record in the case. Cornell has made some statements through its athletic committee, setting forth some considerations deemed by that University necessary for a proper understanding of the subject. This statement follows:

PROF. WHEELER'S STATEMENT.

"On the receipt of Yale's communication of Nov. 24, a meeting of the Cornell Council was held immediately after the Thanksgiving recess and a proper acknowledgment sent, stating that the Cornell navy would 'have great pleasure in accepting the proposition, pro-

vided such arrangements of place and time are made as will insure a fair and complete test, and will enable us also to satisfy the just claims of other competitors who have met us in former years, and may now wish to meet us again.' Cornell hoped the matter might be brought to an easy settlement by conference, and suggested it.

"It has not been found so easy as was expected to procure a conference with the really responsible parties at Yale. With Harvard the situation has been fully and frankly discussed. Cornell's position was a difficult one. She desired to 'give satisfaction' to all former competitors if it could be done without unreasonable inconvenience. Rowing three races was out of the question. Rowing two races in two different places was to be avoided. It is not generally expected in sport that the party having the larger obligation should have the greater inconvenience. Cornell, as her acknowledgment of Yale's communication showed, was concerned about two things: First, a place for a fair and complete test; second, an arrangement whereby she could meet all competitors.

"In order to see what arrangements were possible for the race with other competitors a representative of Cornell visited Pennsylvania and Columbia. Pennsylvania was averse to New London; in fact, to any plan which made her race with Cornell an event of secondary importance. She urged Cornell to proclaim an open regatta. She admitted that Cornell's convenience ought to be consulted this year and said that as a last resort she would row where Cornell appointed, but not contentedly. Columbia said she would trust Cornell to do what was fair and should meet Cornell at a place convenient to Cornell. She did not, however, think New London likely to prove a good course for three crews.

"When, on Dec. 24, word was received from Harvard that she would take the risk of New London's course being proper for three crews without further investigation, an assurance which up to that time Cornell had not received from Harvard, the matter was ready for settlement. It was then the Christmas recess. At the first meeting after the recess complete and final action was taken. This action will, it is believed, be satisfactory to all parties. It is certainly fair. If Yale names the place this year, she could not do less than allow Cornell to name it next year. Harvard asks no privilege of naming this year. There is hence no need of any proviso in accepting her challenge.

"Yale's suggestion of a willingness to merge her race of this year into a triangular one is also accepted, once the race is agreed upon. Cornell asks to name the place of the Yale-Cornell race next year. She, of course, does not hereby put any pressure upon Harvard, whose convenience would naturally have to be considered if another triangular race were desired.

"After closing up this matter, Cornell, in a separate communication, suggests to Yale, as well as to the three other rowing universities, a more or less formal association for the arrangement of dates and races in general. This communication does not require an open regatta by any means.

"It may be a step toward the meeting remotely like an 'American Henley.' There is no reason why intercollegiate rowing should not be diversified more than it is. There is a limit to the number of eight-oared races in a single year.

"Why not widen the scope of rowing by introducing other forms such as four-oars and singles. This will afford the opportunity for more men to participate and more combinations between colleges to be made. In making the suggestion Cornell has no other motive than to advance the interests of free amateurship."

THE CONFERENCE.

Between Yale's challenge and Cornell's reply, at Cornell's request, a conference of the Cornell, Harvard and Yale captains was held at Albany. In this conference all points at issue were carefully and frankly discussed. One of the first questions raised by Mr. Colson of Cornell was the extent of authority vested in the captains by their respective colleges. Mr. Colson

himself said he had no authority to act. Mr. Goodrich of Harvard said that he had practically complete authority to act for his University, while Mr. Whitney of Yale added that, according to the custom at Yale, he was vested with full power, thus removing any criticism that difficulty was found in meeting responsible parties from Yale.

Naturally, the question of courses came up for discussion, and the selection of Poughkeepsie for another year was given full consideration. Mr. Whitney reiterated Yale's attitude towards that course and her determination to use all means to avoid rowing there a second time, because of its unfitness for practice work, as admitted by all crews who have been there. This was especially brought out, and on this point Mr. Colson said that Cornell did her practice before going to Poughkeepsie. It is well understood that it is impossible for either Harvard or Yale to row on any course where they are prevented from practice after leaving Cambridge and New Haven.

The conciseness of Yale's reply to Cornell's qualified acceptance led a representative of the WEEKLY to ask Mr. Whitney if he had made clear Yale's position as to binding herself for succeeding years. He said he had made himself absolutely unmistakable on this point, so that there could be no misunderstanding. He expressed himself as surprised that no notice was taken of this statement in the Cornell Council's further action. As he had presumed that the object of the conference was to clear up such points, he had declared explicitly that Yale's athletic arrangements in general, and her boating policy in particular, made it impossible for him to consider, in arranging for this year's race, any conditions for future races. In his telegraphic reply to Cornell he had assumed that this point was understood at Ithaca.

CORNELL AND HARVARD.

During the pending negotiations between Cornell and Yale, the following correspondence has passed between Harvard and Cornell.

HARVARD'S CHALLENGE.

Capt. F. D. Colson, Cornell University Boat Club.

DEAR SIR: The Harvard University Boat Club hereby challenges the Cornell University Boat Club to row a four-mile race this next Spring at such a time and at such a place as may be convenient and agreeable to both crews.

DAVID MARION GOODRICH,
Captain H. U. B. C.

Dec. 16, 1897.

CORNELL'S ACCEPTANCE.

Capt. D. M. Goodrich, Harvard University Boat Club.

DEAR SIR: The Cornell navy accepts the challenge of the Harvard University Boat Club for a four-mile race the coming season, at such time and place as may be convenient to both crews.

FREDERICK D. COLSON,
Captain of the Cornell University Crew.

The following is Cornell's letter to Yale suggesting a rowing Association:

Payne Whitney, Captain of the Yale University Crew.

DEAR SIR: After accenting the proposition of the Yale University Boat Club for a race on the terms proposed by Yale, the Cornell navy wishes to express its own preference in general for an open regatta, controlled by the five universities usually participating in rowing. Such a regatta Cornell always stands ready to enter. If it is impossible to organize such a regatta, Cornell still believes that, in view of the complications which are arising from the difficulty of arranging races and dates among these five universities, it would be advantageous for all and beneficial to college rowing if a rowing association representing the five should be formed.

Such an association could at least, by the convenience of conference it would afford, facilitate the task of arranging places and dates in case two eight-oared races are rowed, and could also aid in broadening the scope of rowing competition by introducing, for instance,

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rowing in four oars, pairs, or singles, and perhaps with combinations of colleges other than those heretofore made.

We, therefore, invite Yale to become a member of such an association, and we shall at the same time extend a like invitation to Harvard, Pennsylvania and Columbia. I send you the above memorandum of the action of the Athletic Council, as well as that contained in my other letter of the same date, feeling the assurance that they will offer so satisfactory a solution of the problem confronting us all that a conference such as I was expected to call may not be necessary except for matters of detail.

FREDERICK D. COLSON,
Acting under authority of Cornell Athletic Council.

Crew Candidates.

The candidates for the University crew will begin training next week under the supervision of Mr. R. J. Cook. Work will be confined to instruction in the tank and the customary runs, until the harbor is available.

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