

THE BASEBALL SEASON.

The baseball season has been as surprising as it has been disappointing. Every series has been lost, and yet at times the Nine has played ball of a quality superior to that of many a nine which has won every important series. The Captain of the Nine has been of the first quality of athletic leadership. He has not only known the game well and played it well, but he has had the personal qualities of manliness and courtesy to add to his hold upon his men and upon the College. While falling off a little in his play the middle of the season, as did several of the men, he closed with a brilliant record in the last two games of the Harvard series.

He has had rather an unusual set of men to deal with. They have been of the best and of a kind one likes to see representing Yale. They have been recognized for a long while as having a lot of baseball in them and now and again have shown it. A faster infield is seldom seen. But it was hard to keep them nervously and physically up to the pitch. Camp was practically without any assistance in coaching for the first part of the season. When Mr. Keator, who thought it impossible for him to do any coaching work of any consequence this year, finally came up from New York for the month of June, at very considerable personal sacrifice, things began to look up decidedly. The Captain was properly relieved and assisted, and under a single, consistent system the play of the men improved. What appears to have been a slight over-training at the very end was the only drawback to perfectly successful work.

But these things made the disappointment of losing the two series all the keener. The Princeton game, so nearly won, was lost, under most trying circumstances. It ought not to have been lost, even under those circumstances, and even though those circumstances must never be repeated in any intercollegiate baseball in which Yale takes part. The Nine and all of Yale gave full credit to Princeton for her rally and Yale's players each took upon himself the responsibility of defeat. There was never better spirit in a nine.

In that game at Princeton, Yale had entirely smashed the criticism that the players did not dare to hit, by all but knocking Hillebrand out of the box. Then followed the phenomenal hitting of the Cambridge game, and all Yale's spirits went up. The same Nine against the same pitcher did nothing at New Haven and could not do all they wanted to at New York. They had not become the masters at batting that Yale's nines must hereafter become at any cost.

The story of the Harvard series is told elsewhere. The last game was of the hot, exciting kind which Yale men used to love and not fear. It is highly hypercritical to condemn the Nine or any part of it for the losing of it, but the Yale sentiment of to-day is,—and nowhere so strong as among these players themselves—that such a game in the future must not be lost, but that the men

must come up to the scratch, as did Captain Camp, and do their very best when their best is needed. If the work of others had corresponded to their Captain's, there would have been no third game and hardly a question of a contest in the second.

THE WORST FEATURE.

But the great feature of the season and the worst feature of it, and the one which every Yale man can aid in making absolutely impossible in the future, was the insubordination of the College. The term is used deliberately. There were conditions which made it easy for this insubordinate spirit to show itself, but that did not excuse it, nor did it excuse the right-minded men for not suppressing it. At Yale the captain is king; at Yale the common creed has always been that the king can do no wrong. That creed was attacked and in part overthrown this past season. The best judgment of the Captain, backed by advice from the best of baseball experts and concurred in by the baseball men of College, was declared unsound, was impeached in common conversation and through public criticism as dictated by the most damnable motives, and was finally made the occasion of what was practically open revolt at a championship game on the Yale diamond.

The demonstration of June 2 was a disgrace to the University. The number of men who joined in that demonstration for one player against another was not a majority or nearly a majority, of the students of Yale, but it was enough to show that the unity of Yale was broken. If the spirit had been as it has been in the days of Yale's best efforts, and as it must be in the future, that demonstration would have been impossible. Some men excuse it on the ground that public criticism had been so bitter and wild and general, that it was not strange that many had been misled. But in other days writers could say what they would, outsiders could attack in any way they pleased or with any weapons which they elected to use, and Yale still stood with firm ranks behind her leaders and followed with confidence.

It has already been said in this paper that it was against human nature to believe that a team, with a knowledge of that feeling behind them, could come

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