

FROM the combined effect of low grades and faculty intervention, it has become an important question, before each game of football on foreign grounds, whether or not we can send our whole team to represent us. As to the justice of the ruling which might hinder some of our first team men from taking a trip, we will raise no question, but hope that we will soon be able to dispense with it, and that in the meanwhile it will cause us no serious trouble. Before a recent game, however, it seemed likely that it would do so, and remarks were heard from certain quarters to the effect that it might be more politic to cancel the game, reasoning no doubt that if the college could not be represented properly it should not be represented at all. In other words we would be doing what we so often blamed and anathematized other colleges for doing towards us. Right in line with these remarks, the LANCE received a letter recently which we here publish. It reads as follows :

To the Editor of the FREE LANCE.

If I may be pardoned for trespassing on your time, I desire to give expression to a thought which recent events have impressed upon my mind. According to accounts, we have been the victims of broken engagements with the athletic associations of at least three colleges during the present season. After dates had been made for engagements and the foot-ball management had gone to certain expenditures on account of the same, the managements of these several teams proceed to cancel their dates and obligations as lightly as if there were neither legal, moral nor financial principles involved, and for no real reason: though there was a curious coincidence in the withdrawal of two collegiate games immediately after our crushing defeat of Lafayette, and later the canceling of a game by the University of Pennsylvania after its low scoring against the same team.

I desire to ask if it is possible that college athletics have fallen to so low a moral standard that the managers for the teams representing institutions, which are presumed to be examples of rectitude for all conditions of men, can regard contracts so lightly as to set them aside for such frivolous reasons as have been advanced by them in extenuation of their acts? If so, no wonder that odium is heaped upon them in the public press. On the other hand, is it possible that foot-ball and the other forms of athletics have so far become the ultimate end and not the means to an end that their devotees lack the true spirit of manliness—are cowards, if you will—and will only play when compelled to after they find “they are in for it?” If that is the explanation of the acts here complained of, then it is none too soon to now cut off athletics as a college exercise. Then

should the faculties limit the participation in sports of the field to the training of a good physique fortunately, however, I think that only a few colleges are so unfortunate as to harbor athletic organizations whose reputations are of the nature indicated above. But it is deeply to be regretted that these few managers fail to practice the high principles of honor and courage which would command the respect of all men.

AN OBSERVER.

While no comment on the above is necessary, it being a full and true statement of facts, we wish merely to add that it is an example and timely warning to ourselves both as to our dealings with others and the manner in which we are dealt by. We can profit by our past experience in canceled dates, and at the same time, let us not fall into the same error ourselves.

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THE tendency of most students pursuing engineering courses at the College is to pay too little attention to literary work. While technical studies are of prime importance to the engineer, still the literary branches are also of great value. The student, who has neglected his literary training cannot be said to be broadly educated. His education is one sided. He is conversant only with one particular technical branch of knowledge. Note the contrast with the student who has devoted at least part of his time to securing a general education. He has been able to do just as much technical work, and is the much more thoroughly educated man of the two. The literary training has been a source of profit and of rest from the technical studies and his interest is kept awakened in both.

The literary society with its declamation, debate, and public speaking is one of the best means for securing a general training. The college library is another. Many an hour is spent in loafing or useless employment that could be used to great advantage in this kind of work.

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THE account of the Lafayette-State game in a recent number of the *Lafayette* was sufficiently amusing from our point of view to insure for the sporting editor of the journal men-