

STATE COLLEGIAN

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EDITORS

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BUSINESS MANAGERS.

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EDITORIAL.

This is an old, old story. It is a very easy matter to contract the habit of cutting the campus but it is a ten times harder proposition to break one's self of such a habit. Last spring, when the sod was in a delicate condition, the students were prevailed upon to keep off the grass and so avoid making those unsightly paths. The result was that at last commencement our campus was in a very presentable condition. The superintendent of the college grounds has taken the trouble to have "keep-off-the-grass" signs placed at prominent spots on the campus and in some places has erected wire fences. It is not necessary to say that they were placed there for a purpose. Keep off the grass.

Football Resume.

The "big" colleges have finished their "practice" games and are now in the midst of their important games. In a few weeks the sporting editors of newspapers and magazines will sum up the results of these "important" games and from these results will pick the football

champions of 1905. So it is now a good time for us to look back over the season of "practice" games and draw a few conclusions from them.

First and foremost one conclusion is inevitable: the football supremacy of "big" colleges is gone forever. This is not any vague delusion of a disordered fancy, it is a cold hard fact. Why? Let us turn to the records of the so-called "Big Six" colleges; colleges that a few years ago were deemed invulnerable to the attacks of any institution not included within that mystic Six. Yale has best maintained her prestige, but during the past month she was defeated in all but the score by our own college. In truth, the very fact that an official was compelled to use trickery and fraud in order to maintain the prestige of Yale in that game, shows how insecure that prestige is.

Princeton has bitten the dust before Dartmouth defeated not by a "fluke," not by the accidents of war, but because she met a better team.

Pennsylvania considered herself lucky to escape defeats at the hands of Swarthmore and Carlisle, was played to a standstill by Brown, and could do no better than to play a draw game with Lafayette.

Harvard for the last three years has found a tartar in Dartmouth, being defeated two years ago, congratulating herself on last year's 0-0, and escaping defeat this fall only by those strange terms of fortune peculiar to football.

And as for the other members of the Big Six—Cornell and Columbia—they have all they can do to win a majority of their games.

Cornell was lucky to defeat Colgate by a single point last month, and her defeat by little Swarthmore was more than decisive, it was overwhelming.

Columbia has come to expect an annual defeat at the hands of Am-

herst, and went wild with joy when a lucky field goal tied the score in the last play of this fall's game. Yet Princeton was able to score only twelve points against Columbia and sixteen against Cornell.

These facts—and what can be more unanswerable than figures—prove that the prestige of the "big" college is no more. But has it disappeared forever? We think so, for this reason:—

Football as played this fall has been pre-eminently a game for big men; speed and head-work have been at a discount. Now if the big universities with their large number of students, their perfected systems of "inducing" prep school "stays" to enter their gates of learning, their complicated and involved methods of play, their large and skilled staff of coaches and trainers and their perfect equipment made possible through their great profits of the season's play, if with these advantages in their favor, they are going down to defeat at the hands of small colleges, how much more will this be the case when football is cleansed and improved? And cleansed and improved it must be if it is to live as an American college sport. When speed and spirit have taken the place of "beef" and brutality, when the abominable system of recruiting is no longer in force, when the paid coach is compelled to leave the gridiron, when sportsmanship and love of the game supersede the desire to win and to make money, then, even more than now, will the plucky little college be able to down its proud antagonist and reduce the painful inflation so noticeable in the craniums of the "big" college players. And at this state of affairs all true sportsmen and the entire American public will rejoice. The big college may continue to win most of its games, but it can never be certain when defeat shall humble it. The supremacy of beef is gone forever.