

### PROFESSIONAL FOOT BALL.

Many rumors are afloat among Western college men regarding the standing of certain foot ball players as amateur athletes. Among other things, it is asserted that the men referred to are either paid for coaching the team, while playing on it, or else receive

money payment. Whatever the ~~circumstances~~ these men may be, the fact remains that public sentiment will not countenance such practices from any college foot ball team.

Professionalism of any sort in college foot ball will do more to ruin the game than any one thing. People will go miles to see a poor game played honorably by gentlemen, when they will not go a foot to see one in which men are paid to help win a game. No right thinking father would consent to have his son in the rush line by the side of a paid slugger, no alumnus would feel satisfied with the honor of his college if it had to be sustained by the work of men hired for that purpose.

The spirit that inspires a boy to go through the hard physical and mental work of a season's training with all its knock and bruises and bumps is above all considerations of money.

Instant physical disaster, temporary, at least, permanent, maybe, would be the lot of a man who would attempt to buy a Harvard, Yale or Princeton player to throw a game. And the notion that the contest is strictly on the merits of the teams is what draws twenty or thirty thousand people to see a single game at Springfield or New York every year.

One instance of the trouble the slightest hint of professionalism causes among Eastern colleges is shown by the case of Donnelly, a Princeton end rush in 1889. Donnelly entered Princeton after college opened. At the time he was a noted amateur boxer in Chicago. Not being able to pay his way through college, he roomed with young Ames—the full-back on the eleven—at Ames' expense. Harvard got wind of the matter and protested against his playing. Through a technicality, when the matter came up before the directors of the Inter-Collegiate Foot Ball association of which Harvard and Princeton both were members, Donnelly was allowed to play. He was disqualified—that is ordered off the field by the umpire—during the game for "slugging."

not played a game together, Harvard having steadily refused to have anything to do with a team countenancing such practices.

The constitution of the American Inter-collegiate Foot Ball association, under whose rules the game is played throughout the country, contains the following:

No professional athlete shall take part in any contest of this association, nor shall any player of any university or college be paid or receive, directly or indirectly, any money or financial concession or emolument as present or past compensation for, or as prior consideration or inducement to, playing, whether the same be received from, or paid by, or at the instance of the Foot Ball association, athletic committee, or faculty of such university or college, or any individual whatsoever.

This rule evidently excludes men who receive money for coaching teams, for they are professionals, men who for their services as foot ball players, receive tuition free—for that is a "financial concession"—men who have their board, room rent, clothes, books or anything paid for by private subscription, for the rule includes individual payments or concessions.

The proper course for Western college teams to pursue is to refuse to play games with other college teams employing professionals. Very soon the offenders would be brought to see the error of their ways by this policy of isolation.

As the sport is in its infancy in the West, if a firm anti-professional stand is made by the leading colleges at once, the game will soon out-rival all others in popularity. If professionalism is allowed to creep in, it would be better to stop playing at once.

THE MORALITY OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS