FOOTBALL BRUTALITY.

Football is all the rage just now; it is the popular college game, and its advocates claim for it the development of high and noble qualities, enumerating such as intelligence, alertness, deception cruelty, stubbornness, foot and fistic ability, and above all, power to give and receive severe punishment without complaining. When the young Spartan stole a fox, so the story goes, rather than to be detected, he covered the vicious animal with his cloak, and let it tear his entrails out. A young man in the game of football gets the ball, he holds it; he falls on the ground with the ball underneath him; the players jump on him; stamp him, crush him; pommel each other severely, break noses, dislocate joints, cut heads and faces, fight with arms, feet, and hands when not seen by those who declare fouls. Slugging on the sly is too common.

Not to put too fine a point on this highly moral and civilizing game, is it really any better than a prize fight or a Mexican bullfight, considering the character of the fighters and audiences? Does not a pugilistic encounter involve every element of human nature, good and bad, that is brought out in a game of football? Is not the prize fighter the embodiment of cunning, celerity, dexterity, skill, tactics, endurance, fortitude, courage, brutality? In a bull fight it is the cunning and intelligence of man pitted against the brute force and fury of a mad bull.

Who are the university boys of Kansas and Missouri that engage in football contests? They are students engaged in a hunt for knowledge. They are presumably moved by higher and nobler impulses than breaking noses, arms, ribs, faces, heads and ankles. They have come from homes of families having some culture and refinement, and it is only fair to infer that their parents never intended that their sons should be maimers of their fellows.

If, on the other hand, there is the brutal element so strongly sticking out in human nature that it must be satisfied with the flowing of blood and the maiming of the body, then, indeed, is it high time that our professors and presidents set themselves to the more sublime task of eliminating the brutish instincts or greatly modifying them in the students, whose instruction they are supposed to foster.

Does any mother, who kissed her boy when he started off to college or university last September, want to see him come home with a broken nose, a disfigured face, an ankle or wrist wrenched out of shape, and a cripple for life? Is it an intellectual sight to see a student hurt, probably injured for life? Some seem to think so.

Have not the Americans always shown moral courage in times of danger? Is that quality dying out? Will men whose perception of humanity is one step above the bulldog kind contend that football as now played is a movement in the direction of kindness, sympathy and benevolence? If the game can not be freed from its dangerous and brutalizing features it should be prohibited. As it is at present it is a disgrace to our civilzation. These are the cold facts about it, and many of the college and university men know it and believe it, but they hesitate to say so.

A prize ring fight is a scientific exhibition compared to the modern football battles.