

*A LETTER FROM COACH CRAWFORD.*

There are no individuals among the undergraduates of the University who deserve more credit than the members of the second eleven. These faithful men clothe themselves in a mere parody of a foot ball suit and daily appear upon the field to battle with men stronger and more skillful than themselves, and nobody can know how unpleasant a task is theirs until he has actually lined up with them.

The work they are doing I call a task; to secure the best results in foot ball it ought to be made a duty, but it can only be such when you accord to the second eleven some reward, which must at least be your heartiest appreciation.

When we think of it I am sure we are grateful to the college side or second eleven, but something more must be done. We must make their work more pleasant to themselves and profitable to the 'Varsity, and this can readily be accomplished by a little more interest and a more efficient organization.

The second eleven ought to have a captain and a manager. Games with the surrounding schools and colleges can be easily arranged upon Saturdays and a good deal of sport and experience can be derived from them.

With some interesting game in view, I am sure that the second eleven would be much more efficient and capable to give to the 'Varsity that defensive practice of which it stands so much in need.

This week some new men will appear for the first time, and this will tend greatly to strengthen the college side, and if the proper interest is displayed I see no reason why the second eleven cannot beat any team in the state except the 'Varsity and perhaps Doane, although she ought to be no exception in future years.

The 'Varsity team is rapidly improving and a strong team is confidently expected, but whether a winning team or not will depend largely upon whether you take extreme interest and make extreme efforts. It is a

small fraction that distinguishes the good man from the indifferent, or even from the poor man. It is always this little bit of extra effort or excellence that tips the scales and tells the story.

If you have a coach, remember that your rivals have a coach also; if you have some excellent men, bear in mind that they are equally fortunate; if your team is better than last year reflect that it is the same or ought to be with your opponents.

All thought leads directly to one result, and that is this: If victory is worth a struggle, and it is, we must leave no stone unturned. With Cato-like persistency I close this article. "A large attendance at the practice games is earnestly solicited."

FRANK CRAWFORD.

*Athletic.*

A great deal is said, mostly in the west, by old women of both sexes about the "brutality" of foot ball. I shall not compile statistics as to the relative number of injuries received by participants in foot ball and other athletic games. Undoubtedly there is a brutal element in everything into which muscle enters. But what game is popular with boy or man unless it involves risk of breaking his neck? What athletic sport is so harmless that he will not play it violently and enjoy it in proportion? Perhaps the spirit which caused the ancients to throng to gladiatorial shows is not entirely extinct in man, for certainly such games as foot ball are increasing in popularity.

Yet it is a grave mistake to attribute the popularity of foot ball to any such spirit. People who understand the game—and no others enjoy it—go to see the marvellous results of human patience, training and skill which a well-trained foot ball team exhibits. The struggling piles of human beings which seem merely the work of chance and excitement are carefully calculated and are planned and led up to by prearranged and studied signs. Horse racing is a somewhat similar