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COMMENCEMENT

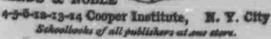


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some of them presented the unprecedented spectacle of students of one institution exerting themselves to cheer on to victory a team from a rival university. The attitude of these persons is well illustrated by the remark attributed to one of them, that if the board were abolished and the funds turned over to the manager he would soon get a good team.

"The lack of success which has attended the Nebraska team during the past season is to be attributed to many things besides the policy of the board in insisting that all players be bona fide students. At the opening of the season we were without a manager, the captain had not yet returned and did not return for nearly two weeks, and but two of the players of the past season were in the university. Thus it will be seen that we started with no manager, no captain and no team. Everything had to be provided for at once, with games rapidly approaching. Iowa and Missouri have each sustained worse defeats at our hands than any to which our team has been subjected this season. Considering these facts and bearing in mind that not a single player was brought from another team or from any other institution, we believe that the showing made was reasonably creditable. At any rate, we have laid a sound foundation for the future. Never before has the university had a second eleven to compare with the one upon the field this season. This, we believe, is largely due to the fact that every man who has played thereon will have his fair show of gaining the 'varsity team another season ard will not be debarred by some one brought from another team. Furtherr ore, we have established a precedent of making rules something to be obeyed as well as published in the university catalogue. We desire it to be understood that there shall be no abatement in our zealous enforcement of these rules with regard to all teams and all persons, and that we shall enforce not merely the letter of the rules, but the spirit which has prompted their enactment.

"All criticisms of the action of the board in carrying out the purpose of its organization as being high-handed or arbitrary or unprecedented is based upon ignorance of the object of its establishment and the authority by virtue of which it exists. The board does not exist to produce winning teams by fair means or foul, nor to afford a decent cloak to practices reprobated by rule and winked at in practice. The board is bound to carry out the intention of the regents in constituting it, and in so doing violates no precedents, for the reason that there are none to violate. Despite the attacks on its honesty of purpose, and despite the effort which has been made to undermine its authority and to render its endeavors towards purifying athletics of no effect, the board has determined to proceed vigorously along the lines mapped out, even though it become necessary to resort to drastic measures with regard to those whose opposition to progress has been most pronounced. We feel sure that the public, both within and without the university, will recognize the justice of the cause and lend encouragement and assistance in weeding out that doubtful and dangerous element in college athletics, the semi-professional."

Her little laugh rang sweet and clear, Its silvery music charmed my ear; All life seemed on the merriest plan When she laughed at the other man. Her little laugh again I heard, But to no mirth my soul was stirred; It made a difference, you see, When, heartless girl, she laughed at



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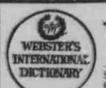
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