

COMMUNICATIONS.

Editor Nebraskan-Hesperian: I notice in your issue of December 12 a clipping from the State Journal which conveys a very erroneous impression regarding the condition of foot ball at Missouri university. Now, if you will kindly permit me the use of your columns for a few moments, I shall correct the one main error contained in the article and show wherein its palpability lies.

The writer dwells at considerable length on the fact that the supporters of the game at Columbia have tired of their misfortune on the gridiron and have resolved to ask the legislature for an appropriation of \$5,000 to help defray the expenses of "getting up a 'winning team' next year." The first portion of this I admit to be probably true, but when the writer comes to speak of "getting up a winning team" he has evidently failed to understand the purpose of the appropriation. The \$5,000 is wanted, not to assemble professional foot ball players from all over the country in the educational center of Missouri, but simply to enable the university to secure the services of a regular coach, such as Iowa, Northwestern, Chicago and many other universities have. Instead of promoting professionalism, it is the final step in the successful attempt to completely abolish this kind of athletics.

Besides, since 1895—long before many of our western universities even dreamed of the practicability of such an act—the faculty of the University of Missouri has waged an incessant war against impure foot ball. Though the team has been overwhelmingly defeated every season except the one just passed, the "clean" standard has been maintained, so that finally the paradoxical stage has been reached in which the Tigers are not only good foot ball players, but excellent students as well.

Now, to suppose that the authorities of the university are going to render all this labor vain—and especially when it has proved a success—is ridiculous in the extreme. The fact is that, although the regulations regarding foot ball players have been very strict in the past—every member of the team being required to maintain an excellent class record—the intention of the faculty is to make them still more severe in the future.

So, in taking this all-important step in athletics, Nebraska may feel assured that she will receive the hearty co-operation of her friend and admirer, the University of Missouri.

JOHN L. GERIG.

Lincoln, December 19, 1899.

Editor Nebraskan-Hesperian: Enclosed you will find a postal note for \$1, with which sum you will kindly credit me. The good results of the combination of the two college papers are decidedly noticeable. You seem to get all of the news and you give it without attempting to color it up. I am glad to see that you find room in your columns for students who have something to say, regardless of who they are or what sentiments they wish to express. If the students realized what unselfish efforts your paper is putting forth to fan the spark of college spirit into flame, and what a great part college enthusiasm has to play in university life, how intimately it is connected with the development of the individual student, they would certainly feel a keen gratitude.

During the few weeks that I have been in Madison I have found my chief diversion in comparing the University of Wisconsin with the Nebraska university. While, on the whole, the two institutions are similar, there are differences which are more or less funda-

mental. The University of Nebraska is isolated; it is practically without competitors; there are no private schools of any importance drawing students from its territory; neighboring state universities offer no competition on the north, east, south or west. In Wisconsin the case is quite different. Inducements are held out to students from almost every point of the compass. It is for this reason that, while the Wisconsin university is almost twice as old as the Nebraska university, it barely outranks Nebraska in enrollment. The Nebraska university has grown so rapidly as to entirely outstrip the more slowly developing generosity of the state legislators. It is for this reason that Wisconsin can boast of university buildings, the magnificence of which probably eclipses anything that Nebraska chancellors and regents ever dreamed of in their wildest moments.

There is a marked difference in the characters of the two student bodies. The Wisconsin student is not given to drudging, as is the Nebraska student. He takes life with an ease which astonished me; and yet he seems to accomplish a great deal during his college course. While the librarian yawns behind a book and wonders if it really pays to keep the library open for a mere handful of readers, the lake shore is lined with couples wielding fish-rod and line; the lake itself is dotted with sail boats and row boats, or with ice boats and skaters; the balls are moving stubbornly over the links and the wires are ticking off reports of the Yale-Wisconsin foot ball game or telling of Wisconsin's prowess on the Hudson.

Having mentioned libraries, I am reminded to say that Madison is very

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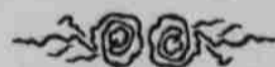
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