

From the HARVARD ADVOCATE—

October 17, 1879, by Theodore Roosevelt.

The Fall Meeting of the Athletic Association is very near at hand, and from the present prospect it does not seem likely that any previous records will be lowered. This does not arise from lack of encouragement from the Association, which certainly has done everything possible to induce men to train for the events, but from the indisposition prevalent among college men to do the hard work necessary. There is yet time remaining for men to get ready for this meeting, and we most warmly encourage them to do so and not let the fear of being beaten hinder any one from doing his best.

The statement of the financial condition of the Association shows it very much in need

of money, and we hope that all will do their part toward paying off this debt, and that all who have not done so will join the Association.

In connection with our athletic meetings we call attention to a letter in this issue, the spirit of which we heartily approve; we could recommend it to the consideration of the Athletic Association as a very excellent suggestion for making our sports in every way better. If Yale can be brought in, it seems likely that the increased competition would result in better training, the only thing needful to improve Harvard's records.

To the Editors of the Harvard Advocate:

In view of increasing the interest in our athletic meetings a plan is suggested which would seem to bring about many results.

At present we have two field meetings during the year, one in the fall and the other in the spring, a good track, and every inducement, it would seem, for men to try to win prizes; but the great difficulty has always been to get enough men to train for the different events to make them interesting, either on account of closeness in the result, or by reason of the es-

pecially good records made. Very seldom do we have the pleasure of seeing either of these results.

Now, what induces men to train so well and faithfully for the Football Team, Crew, or Baseball Nine? Simply the desire to beat Yale. Would not they train equally well for our athletic sports if they were to try against Yale there too? It seems probable that the mere desire to win from Yale is all that is now needed to make our athletic meetings a complete success.

The plan proposed is for one college to send a team to compete in the sports of the other. For example: Let Harvard send ten men to Yale in the fall, and Yale send ten men there in the spring.

It seems clearly that this would be just the impetus which would make our sports what they should be. The number of spectators would be much greater, many men would train for the events, better time would be made, and our athletic sports would take their place with football and baseball; and more important than all, we should not see our events filled by men who had no previous training, and only entered to "fill up,"

R.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

AS AN UNDERGRADUATE ● ● ●

BY DONALD WILHELM ● ● ● ● ●



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