Foot-Ball.

The last few years has given evidence of the fact that college foot-ball is gaining, not only in collegiate popularity, but also popularity quite universal. In view of this fact a little historical sketch of the successive periods of foot-ball development at Bucknell and of those who assisted materially in handing down our proud heritage might be of interest.

Data are lacking with reference to time and the individuals who initiated the old form of foot-ball (Association). It is enough to say that in the "early days" class and society rivalry and the like, was intensified by the "kicking game" as it was want to be called.

In the fall of '83, foot-ball proper began at Bucknell. Lafayette had issued a challenge for a game. The following quotation from the December number of the Mirror of '83, will throw some light on the conditions of the field and hence on the stage of foot-ball development: "Tuesday afternoon, before Thanksgiving, was given to the boys to pick stones off the campus and put the grounds in better conditions for the foot-ball game. About one-half of the boys availed themselves of this opportunity and the other half looked on," Carl Law, now Treasurer of the Mercantile Trust Company had been elected captain. All was in readiness for the looked-for contest. The result of this game was unsatisfactory both from the standpoint of finance and of future enthusiasm. Bucknell played no more foot-ball until the fall of '87.

In the early fall of '87, foot-ball had a second birth. Good athletic material and college enthusiasm augmented by town loyalty marked a new era in our athletic life. However, experience was sadly lacking; all that any of our men knew about the game consisted of what they had gleaned from the rule book. Amid such conditions as these Howland Hanson, '91, brought his personality and enthusiasm into action. He was elected captain and effected the complete organization of a team. Spirit ran high from the beginning and then, as now, the side lines were graced by the loyal collegians. We were not victorious; State defeated us twice, but the foundation was laid firm and secure upon which Bucknell's little temple of foot-ball fame has been built.
From '87 until '91, no notable strides were taken; but the period may be classified as one of good hard work. In the year of '91, we entered the Inter-State Collegiate Foot-ball League of Pennsylvania. It was in this notable year that we defeated Cornell and achieved our first victory over our traditional rival—"State."

It might be well to say here that to Chas. Allen, '92, who at present is one of the most prominent clergymen of the Middle West, more than any other person is due the credit of our athletic achievements of '91. He was elected to the captaincy four successive years, a mark of esteem and high standing.

The year of '94 marks another year of progress; for it was in that year we obtained our first regular coach. Wm. Young, a former member of Cornell Varsity has this distinction. He did efficient work during his stay of one year. Mr. Young was succeeded by F. E. Herring, a member of the Chicago eleven. From '96 until '99, a system of graduate coaching was in vogue. In 1899, we secured our present coach, Geo. W. Hoskins, whose career here has been fraught with unparalleled success in our athletics. As a result of his hard work we have gained a high place in the foot-ball world.