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Charles W. Dabney, 1887-1904

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Excerpt from the Athens Banner, 2 pgs, no date

Athens Banner, a Georgia Paper

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Georgia's eleven is back and a more thoroughly indignant set of men would be hard to find.

It is true that they lost to Tennessee, but it was directly attributable to the rascality of the referee, who, by the way, is coach for the Tennessee eleven. This official by a systematic method of outrageous swindling, premeditated and prearranged, literally robbed the University men in one of the most palpable steals ever indulged in by an official, north or south, in the history of college athletics.

Such expressions as these were heard all over the campus yesterday, and there is not a vestige of doubt but that the contentions made by Georgia were eminently just and proper.

From all that can be learned, the Tennessee contingent not only won the game by unfair means, but also treated the visiting team with the most unparallelled discourtesy. This certainly does not redound to the credit of the institution nor does it say much for the men who go there.

A time-honored precedent, and one that will be observed so long as gentlemen and the sons of gentlemen go to institutions of learning, is to treat all visiting teams with courtesy, and when this custom is departed from in such a radical manner as it was in Knoxville it is an infallible indication that the institution is frequented by a set of men who are devoid of the high sense of honor and integrity which should characterize every college student.

Members of the team tell the following tale, which is told in the words of one of their number:

"We arrived in Knoxville and were taken in charge by the manager of the team who finally got us quartered about in the dormitory, the men being scattered to all parts of the building. Our fare was miserable, and we had been there only a few moments before we became aware of the hostile attitude of the students.

"They jeered at us continually and when night fell, and we retired a continual hubbub was carried on all night to keep our men awake. Next morning several of our sweaters were missing, and the padding had been taken out of one or two suits, and all during our stay we were subjected to just such indignities.

"The game was finally called and we consented to accept Pearce, the coach of the opposing team as referee, but to our serrow, we soon found out our mistake. for he literally stole the game, and a number of us told him as much several times.

"Our men would advance the ball without any trouble whatsoever, until near the Tennessee goal, when the referee would give to the other side every time, without any legitimate cause whatsoever. He would give off side plays aginst us when none existed, and this continued until the umpire refused to officiate further, assigning as his reason that he would not be a party to any such swindle.

"Our team started to leave the field, but the captain of Tennessee informed us that he would not give us a cent if we refused to play, and we were forced to go ahead.

"When Tennessee kicked goal from the field, they did not do so until the fifth trial, each succeeding four having been accompanied by losses, making it our ball on 3rd trial.

"We were hissed and derided by the students, who thronged upon the field and interfered with our plays onfil we were thoroughly disgusted and disheartened.

"Our trip will always be remembered as the most unpleasant experience of our college lives."

A formal protest will be made by Coach Saussy in behalf of Georgia, and it is thought that the game will be ruled out by the Southern Intercolligate Athletic Asssociation.

The team will practice hard this week to prepare for the Auburn game Saturday, and they will go to Atlanta with the confidence of the entire student body, which will be an incentive to win.