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Charles W. Dabney, 1887-1904

Office of the President

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## Letter from E.H. Gammon Concerning Georgia- Tennessee Football Game, 11-21-1899

E.H. Gammon

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Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 21, 1899.

My attention has been called to the articles in "The Red and Black" of the University of Georgia, and the Athens "Banner", criticizing the conduct of the football game between the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee, which I umpired here on the 11th. No complaint is made against my decisions as umpire by either side. It is well known that I am disinterested, and "The Red and Black" gives me credit for being "an impartial official". But these articles do Mr. Pierce, the referee in the game, such gross injustice that I am compelled to publish this statement.

"The Red and Black", supposed to be the official organ of the students of the University of Georgia, charges that Mr. Pierce, the referee, acted unfairly towards them in many respects, and goes on to say that the "umpire (Mr. Cannon) asked to be relieved of his duties, stating as his reasons that he did not wish to be a witness to such a wholesale theft."

In the first place, I have to say that I believe Mr. Pierce was fair and conscientious in his decisions; and from my acquaintance with him I believe him incapable of being a party to a swindle of any nature whatever. In the second place, I did not ask to be relieved, and of course did not give any such reason as that above quoted. Such statements are totally foreign to anything I said or even thought.

The description of the game published in "The Red and Black" is largely erroneous. Regarding the game proper, I would say that Georgia gained more ground through carrying the ball; but Tennessee more than offset this by her far superior kicking abilities and her ends getting after the ball quickly when kicked. The Georgia backs gave the worst exhibition of muffing I ever saw given by a Varsity. Georgia never had the ball near the Tennessee goal but twice; once at the fifteen yard line, when she quickly lost it on a down; the second time for a short while on the twenty yard line, when she kicked the ball and Tennessee made a touchback. Save in "kickoffs" Georgia was never fortunate enough to invade Tennessee's territory. I am safe in saying that the ball was in Georgia's territory throughout almost the entire game.

To my mind, Georgia lost a hard-fought, well-played game, and Tennessee won on the merits of the team and not through biased decisions. I am surprised at Georgia's acting in such an unsportsman-like manner, for I have always admired her University much and took great interest in it when living in Atlanta.

With the kindest feelings and best wishes for Georgia's success, I am,

Very respectfully,

*E. H. Cannon*

Princeton, '89.

*I will add that I am bitterly opposed to an official who gets who is connected with either university, coaching. E. H.*