Athletics.

The college base-ball season has fairly opened, and despite the many prophecies of the downfall of our national game from the college lists that arose from the decision of some of the college faculties in prohibiting professional coaching and games with professional clubs, the prospects for the season of 1883 are fully as bright as those of former years. Of the college league, Amherst will have about the same nine as that of last year, the position of catcher being the only important change.

At Brown there is, to say the least, a hopeful feeling among base-ball men, and, if we may judge from present appearances, she will make a hard struggle for the championship this year.

Harvard, though handicapped by the late law forbidding playing with professionals, has been able to arrange a number of practice games with neighboring amateur clubs, and will undoubtedly put a strong team in the field.

Princeton labors under the same disadvantage, and has no amateur nines accessible to offset this drawback. Nevertheless, she has a number of good men on her nine, and will in all probability stand well in the coming contest.

Yale has lost five of her men, and will probably not present as good a team as last year. It is, however, rather early yet to prophecy.

Dartmouth, Cornell, and Columbia, though not in the league, will also be represented in the diamond field.

The Institute will have no regular team this year, our lack of gymnasium room and early intermission making the practice requisite for a good team impossible.

Although there will be no regular Institute team, arrangements are being made for a series of games among teams from the different classes. These, of course, must be played with but little previous practice, but may be made interesting, at least.

Our recent adversaries, the Lynn Crescent tug-of-war team, a short time since met and pretty effectually pulled the South Boston Athletic tug-of-war team, thus winning the New England light-weight tug-of-war championship.

Department Notes.

A very pleasant excursion was made by the entire Architectural Department last Saturday, to North Easton, where, under the direction of Mr. Turner, color sketches were made of several of Mr. Richardson's buildings, which are situated there.

The first-year men are hard at work upon the loggia problem.

One of the students photographed the frontispiece designs last week, and obtained very good negatives.

All the drawings which have been done this year by the department are now on exhibition in the library.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Turner will continue to give instruction in water-color sketching for the rest of the term.

The department was honored last week by a visit from some young ladies from Wellesley, who seemed very much interested in affairs of the Institute in general.

The miles of railroad reported built this year is less than in any year since 1879.

The Engineering News, April 7, has an interesting account of the oldest iron bridge in the United States.

The death of Peter Cooper removes one of the American railroad pioneers. He was the first locomotive builder in America.

The longest continuous trip ever made in Europe, by rail, was between Calais and Rome, a distance of 1,400 miles, made last month.

The third-year Civils this spring frequently spend Saturday afternoons at work in the field. When so near the annuals it is pretty hard not to have one afternoon in the week for other purposes.