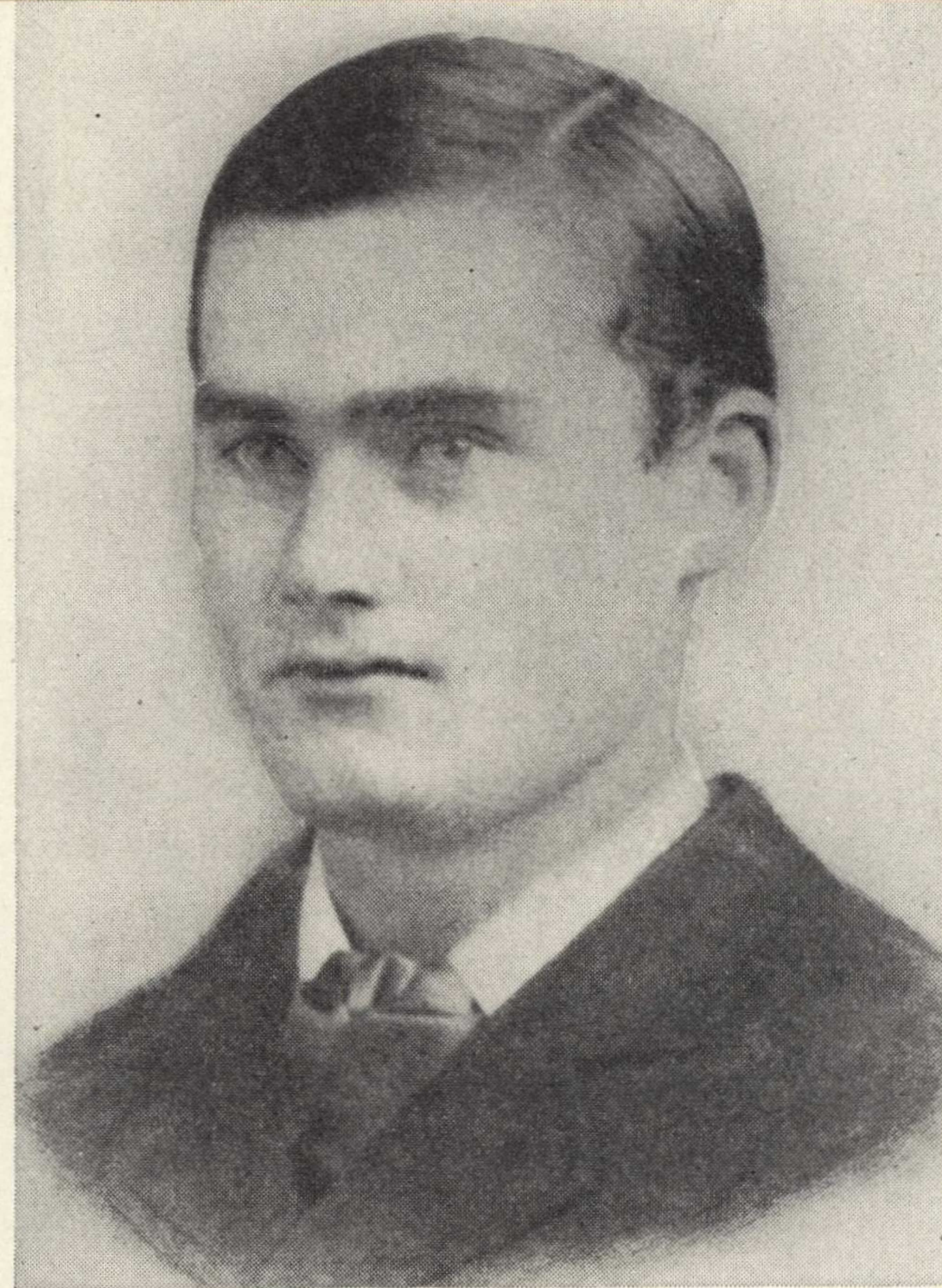


Throughout his entire life, from youth to maturity, Dr. Naismith held fast to the ideals of high moral courage and sportsmanship. He carried with him into his teachings and his work all the lessons he learned on the fields of play. Sports to Dr. Naismith were a religion, and he never varied from his course of a purposeful career. He gave to youth what he believed youth needed.



ways in his dealings with those who knew him well in college or outside.

Jim roomed in Springfield in the house where the eating club held forth. The widowed lady who ran the house had two daughters. One of these girls was of the gentle, retiring type, very sweet and pretty. We were all happily surprised when Jim picked this one for his wife.

Our trails did not cross for many years after our Springfield days together. Gradually he accumulated fame as the inventor of basketball, which has grown so steadily in popularity through the years. A high spot in its popularity and a recognition of its inventor was the acclaim accorded Jim when he modestly accepted the tributes paid him at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936, where he was sent on a popular subscription fund raised by his American admirers.

On his occasional trips to New York at the behest of basketball coaches or sports writers, Jim usually dropped into my office for a little chat over Springfield days or his proposed book. Modest, simple, unaffected, sparkling with good humor, he used to speak in tones of wonderment as to the privileges he had had during his full and useful years through the invention of basketball. The equilateral triangle as a symbol of the all-around man developed in body, mind, and spirit was superbly illustrated in the life of this well balanced personality, whose life and work we all honor in this Basketball Jubilee. May the efforts of the Committee to secure the funds for a fitting and lasting memorial to the founder of our great international game be crowned with success.

The edifice which the Committee contemplates building will serve not only as a memorial to Dr. Naismith but it will perpetuate and crystallize the highest ideals and finest traditions of the game.

There each year will be found the names of the All American teams, and the interesting and valuable data of the sport.

Nothing I can think of will lend such permanency to the pastime of basketball and assure its continuance under the same flourishing conditions it enjoys today as the Temple of Basketball. The game has done a world of good for youth, and anything we can do to improve and sustain it is worthwhile.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Naismith is not alive today to witness this wholehearted movement on the part of sports lovers everywhere in his behalf. Few sportsmen have ever caused such a wide-spread effort as he has. The Naismith Memorial will be the largest building ever erected to a sportsman. It will house both a Museum and a Hall of Fame. In a certain sense it will be the mecca of the game and it will be open at all times to the public. Basketball will profit immeasurably, I am sure, by this manifestation of gratitude on the part of its adherents everywhere. It strikes me that this whole enterprise is one of giving honor where honor is due.

Few men in athletic history have given to the world so permanent and fruitful a contribution as has Dr. Naismith. Multitudes of young men and women everywhere have grown strong and healthy through the medium of this game. Perhaps by fortuitous accident basketball is the most American in spirit of all athletic pastimes.