



The College Times.

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REMARKS ON CRICKET.

SIR,—I have taken upon myself, who am a Lover of Cricket, and a careful scrutineer of the playing of most of the boys at College, especially of those in the Senior Forms, to offer a few remarks upon the game as I see it played on your ground, hoping that you will grant me the favor of making your paper the medium, through which I may reach the boys.

I have not much to say about the *bowling*, but a good deal about *batting*, and still more about *fielding*.

The *bowling* is very well done indeed by one or two of the boys, who bowl pretty well on the wickets, and with a very good pitch. But let me say to those who are beginning to bowl not to deliver too fast a ball for their strength, but let the balls first be slow and well pitched, and then after that has been accomplished, let them increase in speed. It is better for beginners to learn to bowl *round-arm* and not nearly *over-arm*, as I see some doing. It does not look well, and no very great speed can be obtained that way.

Now about *batting*. The first thing to be noticed by the batter is the "black-hole" and "centre" (this, I suppose, seems to some to be too trifling a matter to attend particularly to, but I consider it very important, and so I speak about it), and then he ought to stand in an easy position, so as to be able to move in the twinkling of an eye in any direction. He should thus before every ball make sure of his position, and mark where the black-hole is. What I am now about to say is very particular—the batter should always play with a straight bat, that is held up vertically, and not scoop as many of your Club do, and he should watch the ball from the instant it leaves the bowler's hand till he hits it or it passes him, never looking behind, but watching his mate at the other wicket, who must motion or call to him either to "come on" or to "stay." The batter must never strike a ball across his wickets, but must learn to cut or slip them, considering it of more importance to learn to play correctly, and perhaps be put out a few times at first than to make such a play as that. I see too much stiff, awkward playing on the part of the batters, than I think is necessary, and I would advise a steady and yet a free style of batting, instead of hardly striking at any ball, unless it cannot

be helped (which is very common among the boys). Experience and observation show that nine-tenths of those who are struck on the shins or elsewhere are nervous and shaky fellows, while those who stand up manfully and hit the ball off their legs instead of getting out of its way never or very seldom are struck, so I would say to the timid, guard your legs by striking the ball off them instead of jumping out of the way.

Now about *fielding*, which is the most important part of cricket. It is said that the "Gentlemen Players" of England beat the "Professionals," on account of their good fielding, although the latter are perhaps the better batters and bowlers. Now I will not say anything about catching, for every boy ought to be able to catch any ball he can reach, and if he cannot he is not fit for any first eleven, but what I see wanting in your fielding is that pluck—yes, good pluck—in reaching down to stop a ball, and in not being afraid to stop a swift catch. Perhaps these boys of tender hands say, "Oh wait till we play a match, and then see if we won't stop them." This is a great mistake. Any fellow who will not stop a ball at practice, will not stop one in a match. Fielding has to be learned just as well as Latin or Arithmetic before a boy can pick up a ball well, a throw on the wickets, and that too only by constant practice. Now, I was at U. C. College for four years, and in those days our Cricket Club had the best fielders in Canada, and there is no reason why the same should not be the case at the present time, if the boys would only take the trouble to exert themselves a little more than they do. Another point in good fielding is to run to meet a ball instead of waiting till it comes into your hands. By this, a run here and there in an innings is saved, which in the end deducts several from the other side's score. Allow me to make this closing remark on *fielding*. Do not strike an attitude with your hands leaning on your knees, and the weight therefore of your body coming on your hands, which does not let them be free and loose, but rather have your muscles all braced, and your hands free from all obstacles, and be ready to spring in any direction.

These are only general remarks upon cricket, as I see it played in the College ground this season, and I trust that they will be accepted by the members of your Club, and that the boys will find them both practiced and beneficial if observed.

Hoping that the ditch will be speedily set to rights, and that College may send out a better team than formerly. I am, Sir, yours truly,

A "LOVER OF CRICKET."

—Communicated.

A GRAVE MESSAGE.—When Lord Norbury was lying at death's door, he heard that his neighbor, Lord Erne, was in the same predicament. "James," said he, "run next door, and tell Lord Erne, with my compliments that it has now become a *dead heat* between us!"

Swift was one day in company with a young coxcomb who, rising from his chair, said, with a conceited and confident air, "I would have you to know, Mr. Dean, I set myself up for a wit." "Do you, indeed?" said the Dean, "then take my advice, and sit down again."

A Pat, an old joker, and Yankee, were fly, Once riding together, a gallows pass'd by: Said the Yankee to Pat, "If I don't make too free, Give the gallows its due, and pray where would you be?" "Why honey," quoth Pat, "faith, that's easily known, I'd be riding to town by myself all alone."

TO REMEMBER THE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF A PLACE.

There is an easy way, 'tis said,
The Lat. and Long. to find;
And when you once have mastered it,
It can't escape the mind.

In place of consonants we put
Figures, from one to ten;
But vowels are not reckon'd
By geographic men.

For 'd' and 't' the figure 1;
And 2 for two stroked 'n';
3 next in turn is placed instead
Of three-stroked letter 'm.'

Put 4 for 'r,' and 5 for 'l,'
As erst by Romans done;
6 is now placed for many sounds,
As 'j-g-sh-ch-tion.'

For 'k-c-q-qu-ng' put 7,
And 8 for 'f-ph-v';
9 in the place of 'b-p' set,
And 'nought' for 'z-s-c.'

We thus have formed our tables short
The letters they embrace;
But we must get some little phrase
Alluding to each place.

For Dublin there's the comic clause:
"Hot dumplings in a stew
Are not the most delightful dish
For any old lame Jew."

Now taking 'l' and 'm' and 'j,'
We find 5, 3, and 6,
Which makes, for Latitude, 53°;
And Longitude west, 6°.

Yet take another instance of
The little plan we've tried,
Which can, to dates and distances,
Be also well applied.

For Bagdad is the trifling pun;
(Please faint not on the floor)
"If you put in a bag your dad
You'll make your Mama roar."

Now breaking up the last two words,
Take out m-m-r-r-r,
And by the tables these denote
Lat. 33°, Long. 44°.

R.D.R.

The conversation at Holland House turned on first love. Thomas Moore compared it to a potato, because "it shoots from the eye," "or rather," exclaimed Byron, "because it becomes less by pairing."

It is a popular fallacy to think it's proper to say to a friend, "I'll be with you on such a day if I'm alive." Few people would expect you, if dead.

Booth, the tragedian, had a broken nose. A lady once remarked to him, "I like your acting, Mr. Booth; but, to be frank with you, I can't get over your nose!" "No wonder, madam," replied he, "the bridge is gone."