

of which was the great Marathon race that has played such a part in the sporting history of Canada during the present age.

We now turn our minds towards other nations. Visiting England we learn that soccer-football or cricket holds sway. Its appreciation and encouragement is quite evident by the vast multitudes which witness a contest between two competing teams.

Crossing the wide Atlantic to Mexico we meet with a different kind of sport, both in its essence and form. This is known as bull-fighting. To many this is cruelty to animals, and should not be practiced by rational men. Coming up the continent we enter the vast republic to the south of us. There we see that the country is in a state of intense excitement over baseball. This was quite evident last fall, when the championship series of the world was being contested by the two renowned teams of Pittsburg and Detroit. Stepping over the line into our own domain, we learn that lacrosse holds full sway. This game was first practiced by the Indians, and has continued ever since to take the hearts of the white men.

I have now shown by a few examples that each country has its own peculiar kind of sport, which may be the efficient cause of many things. It now remains to be seen what are those effects which the national game have on public life. In answer to this question, we can put forth both good and bad examples. We will first consider the case of the athlete. Take for instance a football player who has become proficient in the art. Has he received any benefit from it? This remains to be seen. In the first place, we know that the amount of strength depends on the muscles of the body; but to develop those muscles we need physical work; and as football exercises all the muscles of the body, therefore it should be practiced. Again sport is a good education for any man, because he learns to control himself on the field of battle, and to cultivate the disposition to live in peace and harmony with the many different characters which are to be found in after life. Some argue that an athlete endangers his life by practicing such games, but proper games played in the proper spirit are not dangerous. Therefore, we come to the conclusion that the national game is beneficial to the athlete.

Now, coming to the public as a whole, what are its effects? We first notice that it affords a topic of daily conversation. It is an advertisement for the place which the individual or the team represents. For many it gives time to pleasure and excitement. Therefore, the national game must be beneficial to the public.

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