

They are lovers of sport, and their young men engage in the open contests of lacrosse, football, base-ball, etc. They are hardy and like dangers, and they seem to have constantly in mind the idea that by these exercises of the body they are preparing for any fortuitous call under arms to defend the immense territories of the empire over which they are scattered in mere handfuls very often. The general public, the rich ladies, society "du haut et du bas étage", government officials, college authorities, condone and encourage these games or bodily contests. In all these, an immense enthusiasm is displayed, which makes up in loudness what it lacks in joviality.

As the sons of Britain are seen walking in our thoroughfares, there can be seen in their attitude, in their resolutely set figures, that they are worthy sons of a great empire, with a confidence born of past successes, and beaming full with hope. Their appetite for aggrandisement has increased with new acquisition, till now even the ice of arctic and antarctic seas is no longer a meet barrier for it. They have not only a passion to possess, but also one to see, and it was in this land of the spleen that a *pinism* saw the light and found its most ardent votaries, as Whympier and Tyndall, and it was only later that the fad has spread elsewhere. These beef-steak and oat-eaters know how to appreciate good things when they see them, and make use of them, and very wisely too; they are informal philosophers with the loftiness of theories of the stoicians and the common sense of the epicureans without their meanness in practice.

They are lovers of justice which they dispense with an unfaltering hand to their vanquished foes, so that by this they win the hearts of their subjects, just as by their arms they had mastered their armed forces.

They are lovers of religion, and though many neither believe in it nor practise it, and though many resent being spoken to on such subjects by any member of the laity, still as a nation they are strong supporters of the freedom of all forms of worship in the land, and are even ready to open their heart or their purses to all appeals in favor of religion when the word "duty" is pronounced.

Their language has been keeping pace with

their territorial acquisitions, and now not only is the Scotch dialect well represented in their lexicons, but almost every known tongue has given it a legacy. Not satisfied with this, scientists, educationists, and men of letters generally seem to keep word coining machines constantly in operation, with the result that the nouns have become very numerous in comparison to other parts of speech. But the great simplicity of verb-making has also rendered it possible to make any desired addition from the nouns.

The peculiar simplicity of the grammatical construction has been the good fortune of their aggressive language, so peculiarly adapted as it is for business purposes, and so becoming to the pulchre of a New World, and so characteristic of the feverish activity of this "fin de siècle." All over the world also in Britain's colonies a remarkably uniform language is daily extending there is a fever of anglicisation now apparently at its acme; the fever has even spread on the Continent, and in Paris even the press and the people have borrowed of late heavily in linguistic stock across the Straight, and it is now "fashionable" to "shop," to "five o'clock"; and the "tramways" are commanded to "stop" in the language of the Briton. In Canada this truth holds, and in the Province of Quebec the acquisition of the English language is considered a most desirable thing, and although French shall never be dislodged from the home, yet the English language shall inevitably leave its impress upon it. In old French and Dutch colonies, the English language has at times and even now to a certain degree fared less brilliantly. This is what has occurred especially at Mauritius, where the colonists have stoutly resisted linguistic interference, silent or avowed. But that was not owing to any superiority in the Mauritian dialect. The adage that the truths of science found its best expression in the French language is no longer true, as has of late years been amply demonstrated by the brilliant writers of *D'outre Rhim* and *D'outre Manche*; in the English language there is a remarkable adaptability, a virile element, a conciseness which make it in the realm of science a very powerful instrument and vehicle for thought.

The English are an active people, always on