

ATHLETICS.

A GREAT many of my readers may not agree with me, but I do think that baseball, as baseball should be played, should come to stay. True, the ex-Montreal Club was not among the leaders, but they put up good ball for all that, and although it was somewhat loose on the opening day, it should be remembered that the crack brotherhood and league clubs, with \$10,000 stars, frequently drop into the same rut and get rattled. There must be a mediocre game occasionally even among high priced players. But the faults of the first day were more than redeemed by the really good ball of the second; and although the crowd was not nearly so large, there was good enough ball played by the home team to satisfy anybody.

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THERE has been a rumor in baseball circles, that the transfer of the Buffalo team to this city was only a feeler, and that Grand Rapids, Mich., was the ultimate destination of the club, where it could die a peaceful death with trouble to nobody. There was something so strange about this that nobody would easily believe it. For the beginning of a season, in a city where hitherto baseball has been entirely unknown, the attendance at the opening has been decidedly encouraging. It is a game, too, which people naturally take a liking to when played decently, and it does not take long to educate people into becoming enthusiasts. If London, and Hamilton, and Saginaw, and Bay City can support baseball teams, and Montreal, with a metropolitan population cannot, what, under the sun, is the matter with Montreal? There is too good an opportunity to be lost in Montreal just now; and as the Buffalo management do not see their way, there ought to be enterprise enough in our own business men to take a living opportunity, and get a franchise that a very short time is bound to pay compound interest.

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GOOD BYE, International, for a while. You got a decent reception and did not appreciate it. You will find out the error of your ways in Grand Rapids

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A LONG time ago some people thought that it was a direct infringement of amateur athletic rules to have a professional trainer. They have changed their ideas now, and recognize that a professional athlete is not such a very bad man, especially when he helps them to win medals and other trinkets. The spring games of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association served as an example of what an efficient tutor could do when he had the proper material to work upon. It was encouraging to the winged wheel; it was encouraging to that emblem's friends; it was encouraging to everybody but losers, and they don't count; and it should give such an impetus to genuine athletic sports, that Montreal now should take away a fair share of the trophies put up by the C. A. A. A. for the autumn meeting. There is the material there; there is no

excuse for want of practice ground; everything is at the M. A. A. A. that a runner needs, and he should use it. Train hard, bring back some championships, and be welcomed by the fair ones of this fair city; there is no excuse under the sun for defeat, except lack of preparation or want of pluck. In the first case, Trainer Stevenson has taken such pains with his pupils, that such cannot be brought. As to the lack of pluck, well, I don't believe Montreal boys are built that way.

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JUST talking about the absence of pluck and the presence of funk, I would like to refer to the Montreal amphibians. It is a great boast among a lot of men that they are just as much at home on water as on land! Fiddlesticks! Here is the championship meeting of the C. A. A. O. coming to Montreal on August 9th. And what is Montreal going to be represented by? Why, simply by a junior four from the Lachines, and, possibly, another junior four from the Grand Trunk. Is not that a disheartening showing, with every facility that anybody could wish for? It just simply narrows down to a case of funk or laziness. Sloth, it is said, is a deadly sin, but funk is not put down in the same calendar. Now, I don't suppose that any of the lake front boys would commit a sin, and the natural inference is—blue funk pure and simple. I may make enemies by this statement, but with Doctor Johnson. I can state that if it is not poetry it is truth. Brace up a little bit at Lachine, and extend your muscles at the trial fours to-day, and then keep it up. At the present way of going it looks as if Montreal would have to give way to the Western men, only a little worse than usual.

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THE Bel-Air Jockey Club had an appreciative crowd of spectator on Saturday. It showed just what people would attend if they only got good racing. They got good racing, but unfortunately some of the Western horses were done up at Toronto and could not start here. Better luck next time.

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THE Lacrosse season did not open auspiciously for Montreal, and they sustained defeat at the hands of the Factory Town boys. However, this is not discouraging. Montreal won the series last year and still lost the first match. Then watch to-day's match, when the old time rivals will meet—Montreal vs. Shamrocks. Now we will have an opportunity of telling pretty nearly what each team is worth. Both teams play harder and faster when pitted against each other than they do when any other club is the antagonist.

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AND so after all the rumors, the Orient Club is to put in a team for the junior championship. It was the best thing that could be done under the circumstances. When the season opened it looked as if the Orient were going to be by far the strongest team in the junior series.

One Hundred Dollars in prizes.—See page 13.