

Always rarest  
Little garden of the sea.  
Ever my land  
Tiny Island  
Fare thee well ! and God bless thee

J. H. FLETCHER.

Salem, Oregon, 24th Nov., 1900.

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### A Side Talk with Sports.

THE blissful ignorance of the rules of play exhibited by gamesters has often been a matter of wonder to me. It is no uncommon thing to meet with some players, who, while they may be cracks at this or that particular game, are in semi-darkness concerning the laws framed to guide them in its pursuit. They know the underlying principles, what they are to do in their endeavour to make the score sheet balance in their favour, but of the many danger lines which must not be overstepped in legitimately reaching the goal of their ambition they have only the haziest of conceptions. And the funny part of the whole affair is their unconcerned demeanour, for while all the time conscious of a want of light they appear content to plod along until their own act shall bring them counter to the law. Then when it is too late, after the heavy penalty has been imposed upon their side, or victory has been driven away just when it was within grasp, the full realization of their mistake dawns upon them.

It may be urged that it is too much to expect every member of a team to have all the rules at his fingers' tips, seeing we are more apt to first acquire a practical, rather than a theoretical, knowledge of a game. Granted. My idea is that the practical and theoretical work should go hand in hand, to make one a stepping stone to the other. In other words be a