

sionals have less ascendancy over it than over other sports; partly, perhaps, because it is not easy for one of a team of eleven to sell a match. Horse-racing must always have had a professional, and, therefore, a bad and degrading element in it. What it has now become, every Englishman can tell you. The writer of this paper was once in company with a number of old racing men, who were deploring the degeneracy of the Turf. He hazarded the ignorant remark that the depravity could not be universal, naming a nobleman of the highest social and political position who was on the Turf, as one who could not possibly be suspected of legging. The answer was: 'That shows you are not on the Turf;' and the implied imputation was at once supported by a circumstantial account of a particular act which had been brought under the notice of the sporting world.

We have the happiness of possessing certain public instructors so strictly orthodox that they hasten as guardians of the imperilled faith to crush in the bud a conscientious doubt as to the doctrine of Eternal Torment, so eminently Christian that they denounce as a crime the introduction to the Toronto platform of the pure minded and reverent Emerson. It is beautiful to see these teachers and, we might say, pastors of the community, making a little capital out of the popular fancy of the hour by deriding unsportsmanlike fears on the subject of betting on races and telling us that man is a betting animal, whose propensities, if not indulged in the betting ring, will find indulgence in worse ways. We shall not pretend to be more moral than those whose daily writings are our best exemplification of morality in its highest as well as in its most winning form. But we will venture to say that, if gambling is dangerous at all, it is a great mistake to suppose that gambling in connection with sports is less dangerous either to the man or to the community than gambling with cards

or dice. The reverse is really the case. Gambling in connection with a sport is, in the first place, more seductive. It presents itself as the accompaniment of something fine, generous, and highly, perhaps too highly, esteemed by a world which abhors the dice box. It tempts more insidiously to dishonour. A man cannot take to cheating at cards or using loaded dice without knowing distinctly what he is doing, and fairly confronting any remnant of conscience or any regard for his reputation that he may have left in him; but he may, without any such decisive struggle and almost unconsciously, slide into legging. We have heard a good judge say that there was no trap for a young man's honour more dangerous than the temptation to disguise his play at billiards; and it happened that a few days after the remark was made one of the best players in the army had suddenly to retire from the service. But gambling with cards or dice affects only the sitters at the gambling table and the hapless wives and children who may share their ruin. Gambling on sports involves the whole community, who can participate in the betting though they cannot come to the ground; and this kind of gambling, not that with cards or dice, it is that is now spreading like a canker through English character, and over which morality and patriotism are wringing their hands in vain.

The corruption of an amusement is pretty sure to be marked by the increasing prominence of the professional element. It would seem needless to remark, were there not a manifest tendency to forget, that the calling of a 'professional,' be he jockey, oarsman, billiard player, prize fighter, pedestrian, or anything else, so long as he lives by his performances and by betting on them, is a trade and nothing but a trade. It differs from other trades not in being more liberal, but only in being always useless, and, in most cases, disreputable. 'The profes-