

will then know in what direction it should be hit. Cover-point especially should do this. Let him be on the move towards the line in which the ball should be hit; a step or two in that direction may make all the difference. Once in a while he may be "sold," but as a rule the moving pays. Let him also, if he finds the players inclined to run when the ball comes to him, creep in a step or two without the batsman knowing it; the chances are the latter will again attempt to run; but those steps taken will probably turn the tables and cause a vacuum at the wicket. I speak from experience on these points.

After bowling a ball the bowler should go back to his wicket, ready to take the ball if thrown to him. Cover-point often has a better chance there than at the other end, and if the bowler is on the look out and long-on backing-up, as he should be, the throw to that wicket is very often effective.

Another golden rule stated by the Leviathan is this: Try and pick up the ball and throw in with one motion. Practise this as much as you can; it is important, and goes far to show the difference between a fine fielder and an indifferent one. An instant gained in throwing may mean a wicket lost. For practice let two put up a stump between them and stand on each side of it some thirty, forty and fifty yards off and throw hard, trying to send the ball about a foot above the stump. Let each dash in, pick up the ball and throw it fast as he can. The ball from the hand does not come the same as from the bat; still, it is good practice, and helps greatly to learn to throw properly.

Men who field close to the wicket should be on the alert and ready to spring or move their arms to the right or left as required. Don't stand with your legs straddled out; you are powerless so. You cannot gather yourself together in time for a sharp hit or swift-coming ball. It goes by you like a shot. Many a chance of a catch is lost in this way.

I need hardly say anything about catching, except to practise it as often as you can. When you have time, as you have generally in a long catch, let the ball come towards your right breast, and as the ball touches your hands bring them to your breast, one hand under and the other over the ball. In this way you will never miss a catch. A catch missed may mean a match lost. Hardly any long score has been made without giving at least one chance. If the Leviathan had been caught out every time he gave a chance, what a difference it would have made to his average and to the matches he played in. Practise, therefore, catching as much as you can; first with one hand then the other, then with both; practise, by all means, running catches.

When there is no running, return the ball *quietly* to the wicket-keeper. Save his hands as much as you can; he has them hammered enough without your helping wantonly to do so. It is too much the habit in this country to send the ball in hard to the poor devil without cause, and often badly at that. Save the wicket-keeper as much trouble as you can, and his hands also. His place is hard enough without your making it worse. In fielding, then, the golden rules are these: dash in if possible at the ball, pick it up and throw in, all with one motion—*don't hold it*—back up each other at an interval of not less than ten yards, cover as much ground as you can; watch the ball as it is bowled, and be ready to move or even move in the line you think it should be driven; a man who does this well will be a fine fielder. Nothing is prettier or more effective than splendid fielding. How many a match has been lost by the want of it! In good fielding the ball looks as if it was always going where the men are placed, when really, in many instances, it arises from the activity and judgment of the fielders. Good fielding intimidates the batsmen and makes them chary of stealing runs, and thereby keeps the score down. More matches are lost by bad fielding than anything else.

Another weak point in the game among Canadians is *running between the wickets*. How often one sees men run out through bad management, and not adopting or being ignorant of the

simple rule which should guide them! The rule is this: the batsman who has the ball in *front* of him is the one to decide whether a run should be attempted or not. If you hit the ball and it goes behind you, don't stare after it. Look immediately at your partner; if he signs to you to come, run like mad; as he passes he should tell you if there is time for another run. When you get to the other wicket, you then decide as to running again; your partner may have misjudged, and you, having the ball before you, can see and decide. When the ball is hit forward the striker decides; the other batsman should have no voice in the matter. Don't shout at each other—that puts the field on the alert; a simple beckoning with the finger is quite sufficient. Always run the first run *hard*. You never can tell what may happen; by an over-throw, or some bungling with the ball, another run may be gained if you make the first quickly. It is lamentable to see how many runs are lost by not running the first one properly. Never look behind you in running; you have no business with the ball behind you; and it stops your speed. When not receiving the ball, be ready to run. Go a few steps forward *after* the ball has left the bowler's hand, not before. Keep your eye on the ball and your partner; it is riling to see a batsman lolling at his wicket instead of girding up his loins for a dash; runs without number are thus lost. Don't hesitate in running; an instant lost may be a wicket lost instead of a run. Hesitation should not exist if the rule I have mentioned is observed. If you should be hard pushed to get home, throw yourself down on the ground and stretch your bat out. I have saved my wicket more than once in this way.

I have made these remarks, knowing from many years' experience how sound they are. Let Canadian cricketers try them; those who do will, I am certain, soon excel and surpass all others. They will not only take a high position as cricketers, but they will vastly help to bring the noble game into the repute in which it should deservedly be held, in spite of the lukewarmness of old cricketers, and the disgraceful attempts made by the newspapers to run it down.

Yours truly,
W. PICKERING.

UNITED STATES.

A Staten Island eleven played four matches at Philadelphia, commencing with the Colts on Wednesday the 19th. The scores of the visiting club were universally small, while those of their opponents were unusually small. Scores: Staten Island v. Philadelphia Colts: Staten Island, 42 and 37; Colts, 271 (W. C. Morgan, 3rd, 105, not out; J. B. Thayer, 39). Staten Island v. Merion: Merion, 220 (J. B. Thayer, 76; S. Law, 56); Staten Island, 57 and 33, with three wickets down. Staten Island v. Germantown: Germantown, 148 (Brookie, 35; W. C. Morgan, 26); Staten Island, 25 and 46. Staten Island v. Girard: Girard, 140; Staten Island, 43 and 80.

ENGLAND

Lancashire defeated Middlesex by 9 wickets: Lancashire, 242 (A. N. Hornby, 131) and 49; Middlesex, 123 and 168.

Eton won the matches in 1805, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1827, 1828, 1832, 1835, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1850, 1862, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1874, and 1876. Harrow, those in 1818, 1822, 1833, 1834, 1836, 1842, 1843, 1848, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1868, 1873, 1878, 1880, and 1881; those in 1860, 1861, 1863, 1867, 1875, 1877, 1879, and 1882 being unfinished. The Etonians do not count that in 1857, as being for players over 20 years of age.

ETON v. HARROW.

This annual event occupied Friday and Saturday, July 14th and 15th. The result was a draw in favour of Harrow. On the first day 7,822 persons paid at the gate, on the second 5,667. Score: